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LD2811144188 [Editorial Report]

Reaction to U.S. Decision on 'Arafat

U.S. justifications for denying PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to visit New York are "ridiculous" and are "utterly rejected" by the PLO, a PLO official asserted in a statement carried by Baghdad Voice of the PLO radio.

The radio also cited a statement by the PLO official spokesman calling on Arab countries to reconsider their relations with the United States in light of the "hostile" U.S. move and urging the UN General Assembly to take a clear stand against this "flagrant violation of international law."

A commentary by the radio excoriated Secretary of State George Shultz for his "marked pro-Zionist" sympathies, contending that Shultz has "joined the list of permanent enemies of the Palestinian people."

PLO official Salah Khalaf disclosed that the U.S. decision was "a real surprise" to the PLO and he warned it will strengthen Palestinian hardliners and embarrass moderates, according to KUNA.

'Arafat himself discussed the "hostile" U.S. stance in an interview with Tripoli television during his 25 November visit to Libya, stressing that the least the PLO can do in response is to demand that the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session on the Palestinian issue be transferred to the UN building in Geneva.

'Arafat discussed the "unjust and illegitimate" U.S. attitude in a meeting with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA noted.

The U.S. decision was also criticized by Jordan's King Husayn during a meeting with 'Arafat in Amman on 27 November, according to Amman radio.

The king expressed "disappointment" with the U.S. move, viewing it as an attempt to suffocate the "positive, moderate Palestinian voice."

Husayn had earlier contacted Egyptian President Husni Mubarak on the issue, the radio noted, adding that the two leaders agreed on the need for collective Arab action to transfer the UNGA debate to the UN headquarters in Geneva.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid announced that he will postpone his planned visit to New York in light of the U.S. decision, which he viewed as a violation of the 1947 UN Headquarters Convention, MENA noted.

The Iraqi foreign minister likewise postponed his visit to New York to protest the U.S. stand, INA noted, and an Iraqi spokesman condemned the U.S. decision on 'Arafat as "shameful" and "unacceptable."

Among other Arab reaction to the U.S. decision:

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry expressed "deep regret" in a statement carried by KUNA; an Algerian spokesman cited by Algiers radio criticized the "negative and unjustified" U.S. attitude; Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Morocco expressed "surprise and astonishment" in statements carried by SPA, WAKH and Rabat radio respectively.

A Libyan official statement broadcast by Tripoli radio said the decision shows the U.S. Administration's "complete submission to the Zionist enemy" and proves that the United States is not a suitable host for the United Nations.

In contrast to the outcry in the Arab world, the Israeli Cabinet secretary told Jerusalem television that Israel congratulates the United States on its "correct decision."

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent Shultz a message expressing satisfaction with the U.S. decision, Jerusalem radio noted.

Jerusalem radio's Arabic service told its listeners that the U.S. decision constitutes a "strong slap in the face" for 'Arafat and the PLO.

Iraq

President Saddam Husayn announced a "general amnesty" on 27 November for all persons who were convicted or are wanted for political reasons, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, Voice of the Masses radio reported.

However, people who worked as "agents and spies for Iran and the aggressor Iranian Army" will not be included in the amnesty, he said.

Saddam Husayn also called for an expansion of democratic representation by allowing the formation of new political parties.

As for the fate of the president's son, 'Udayy, INA carried a letter to Saddam Husayn from the justice minister urging the Iraqi leader to release 'Udayy on personal recognizance pending his trial in connection with the killing of Kamil Hanna.

Stressing that this recommendation was adopted by the board of inquiry into the incident, the minister contended there is no legal reason for 'Udayy to remain in custody and that keeping him in jail is a "legal violation."

Saddam Husayn received the family of the late Kamil Hanna the same day, telling them that he has three problems:

"Kamil, 'Udayy, and the moral responsibility for applying the law," Voice of the Masses radio noted.

Earlier, in a speech at a youth seminar broadcast by Baghdad radio, the Iraqi leader stressed that 'Udayy's fate is out of his hands and must be settled by the judiciary.

Other subjects raised in this speech included the Palestinian uprising, which Saddam Husayn said requires "serious" Arab support.

However, he contended that "using weapons by regular armies" will eventually prove "more effective" in realizing Palestinian goals.

Discussing Arab assistance to Iraq during the war with Iran, Saddam Husayn thanked "a fraternal Arab country" which sent "part of its army" to fight alongside Iraqi forces, noting that this country used to send 300-400 men every 2 months.

Iran

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the foreign hostages in Lebanon during a Friday sermon carried by Tehran radio, contending that Iran was not involved in the hostage-taking and that the issue "is not connected with us in any way."

Nevertheless, he reaffirmed Iran's willingness to "help" with the release of U.S. hostages if the United States helps Iran ascertain the fate of four Iranians taken hostage by the Phalangists.

Iran has received no news about these people for years, Rafsanjani complained, adding that the United States should "address that problem."

In a separate development, the Majlis speaker issued a statement warning that the murder of former Majlis deputy Dr Kazem Sami may have been politically motivated and urging investigators to work hard in solving this "suspicious" murder, IRNA noted.

Dr Sami, a brain specialist and former health minister, was stabbed to death 24 November by a man posing as a patient.

Iran-Iraq POW Exchange

The head of Iran's War Prisoners Committee announced Iran's decision to suspend the repatriation of sick and disabled Iraqi POW's in view of Iraq's "repeated violation" of the agreement for the exchange of such prisoners, IRNA reported.

Iran will only resume the POW exchange when Iraq releases 67 sick and disabled Iranians who should have been sent back to Iran during the first three POW exchanges on 24, 26, and 27 November, he said.

While noting that Iran has also released only around half the number of POW's specified in the Geneva agreement, the agency stressed that this was because a number of Iraqi POW's either asked for asylum or were no longer ill.

In the two exchanges over the weekend, Iran sent 51 POW's to Baghdad on 26 November, and another 52 the following day, according to IRNA.

Iraq responded by sending 18 and 19, INA noted.

The agreement sponsored by the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) provides for Iran to send 115 POW's and Iraq to send 41 in each of 10 batches.

The ICRC subsequently announced that it is seeking an explanation from Iran over the latter's failure to present to ICRC officials all Iraqi POW's due to be repatriated, Berne radio noted.

Iran, Iraq on OPEC Agreement

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh announced Iran's agreement to the new OPEC accord on production ceilings and quotas for member states, IRNA reported.

The accord envisages an overall OPEC production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) in which Iran and Iraq will have equal quotas of 2.64 mbpd.

Although Iran had earlier opposed moves to raise Iraq's quota to that of Iran, Aqazadeh indicated that Iran eventually acceded to this because certain Arab states agreed to reduce their own quotas so that Iraq could produce at par with Iran.

The new accord will allow Iran to raise its own output and it also meets Iran's demand that Kuwait and Saudi Arabia stop allocating oil pumped from their neutral zone to Iraq, he noted.

Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim confirmed his country's support for the agreement in a statement cited by Baghdad radio, affirming Iraq will "scrupulously respect" its production quota.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Clashes—Beirut radio reported a "guarded calm" in the capital 28 November after painstaking efforts by Syrian troops to stabilize the situation and disarm the warring gunmen over the weekend.

The radio cited estimates that 39 people were killed and 72 others wounded since the beginning of the latest round of Amal-Hizballah fighting.

The clashes had continued over the weekend but abated after Syrian forces issued an ultimatum ordering all combatants off the streets the afternoon of 27 November, according to the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio.

Voice of National Resistance radio noted that the Syrians threatened to use rocket launchers against any source of fire.

Voice of Lebanon radio had reported fierce fighting under way that day, with tanks, artillery, and rockets being used in the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy.

Beirut radio carried several Amal Movement statements over the weekend accusing Hizballah of acts of murder, including the assassination of three Amal leaders on 22 September.

An Amal statement also expressed "extreme regret" that the Iranian Embassy was allowing Hizballah to use its cultural advisory office as an assembly point.

For Hizballah's part, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed accused Amal of violating cease-fire agreements and of failing to abide by a pledge to release prisoners.

Meanwhile, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed ways to end the fighting during talks with Hizballah leaders in Damascus, Voice of the Mountain noted.

Israeli Raid—Confirming the Israeli raid on "terrorist" targets near Sidon 25 November, Jerusalem radio cited reports that the target belonged to Abu Nidal's organization.

However, Beirut radio affirmed that the attack targeted a center belonging to the Nasirite Popular Organization (NPO), killing two people and wounding nine others.

The NPO noted that this was the first Israeli attack on one of its positions, according to AFP.

Israel

Coalition Contacts—Likud ministers decided 28 November to "speedily and thoroughly" examine the possibility of forming a government with the Alignment, IDF radio reported.

The decision was in line with a recommendation by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who told his colleagues that there are no far-reaching disagreements between the two major blocs.

However, if the Alignment does not want to participate, Shamir said, the Likud will form a narrow-based government with religious and right-wing parties.

One of the religious parties, Degel Hatora, had earlier announced its intention to go into opposition, IDF radio noted.

The decision stemmed from the party's ideological proximity to the Alignment and its concern over the "negative" image the ultrorthodox community has acquired during the coalition negotiations.

Territories—A Gaza resident was killed by plastic bullets fired during riots in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp 26 November, Jerusalem radio reported.

The radio stated that five more Gazans were wounded in riots the following day.

Arab sources cited by THE JERUSALEM POST maintained that 24 people were wounded by IDF fire in disturbances 27 November, most of them in the Gaza Strip.

An Arab source said the renewed clashes reflected local anger at the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa.

Egypt

Investigations are being held into rumors that some senior officials unlawfully received money from Islamic capital investment companies, President Husni Mubarak disclosed in remarks to the NDP members cited by MENA.

He added, however, that many officials mentioned in these rumors never received any money from the companies and do not have deposits in them.

Libya

In a statement carried by JANA, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi expressed hope that Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud's visit to Italy will result in an agreement on compensation for Libyans who were "directly harmed" by the Italian occupation and planting of land mines on Libyan territory.

However, an ANSA report on Jallud's talks in Rome noted that the Italian side expressed willingness to increase cooperation on some of the outstanding issues but refused to discuss reparations.

Italian sources said the talks "could be considered positive" if Italy's call for dialogue were not interpreted as even partial acceptance of Libyan claims.

Jallud was received by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican 26 November, JANA noted.

Afghanistan

A meeting was held in Islamabad 27 November between representatives of the Soviet Embassy and of the Afghan armed opposition, TASS reported, noting that the talks focused on the return of Soviet servicemen captured by the opposition forces.

On the military situation in Afghanistan, resistance sources cited by AFP announced that the mujahidin recaptured the Towr Kham border post the evening of 25 November after 184 Afghan soldiers in the post surrendered.

The garrison in Towr Kham was isolated after the mujahidin captured several districts along the highway to Jalalabad, AFP said.

Despite the mujahidin's claim to have retaken Towr Kham, Moscow television broadcast a 27 November report which included footage of a Soviet reporter at the border post.

In another development, resistance sources cited by AFP stated that the Afghan defense minister was injured in a recent assassination attempt in Kabul.

Pakistan

A government spokesman cited by Islamabad radio disclosed that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will announce the appointment of the new prime minister in an address to the nation on 1 December.

The appointment will be made after the convening of the National Assembly 30 November to elect the seats reserved for women.

The provincial assemblies will also meet the same day, the spokesman noted.

Regarding the balance of parties in the National Assembly, AFP reported that the Pakistan People's Party was strengthened by the support of three newly-elected Christian members, while the Islamic Democratic Alliance was weakened by the defection of four members belonging to a faction of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam.

Palestinian Affairs

Reaction to U.S. Denial of 'Arafat Visa

PLO Spokesman Comments

JN2611210488 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Nov 88

[From the "Panorama" feature]

[Text] This evening the United States officially refused to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enter U.S. territory.

The first Palestinian reaction was made a few moments ago by PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, who said the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa is a violation of U.S. commitments to the United Nations. The Palestinian spokesman asserted that the PLO is against terrorism.

Visa Refusal Called 'Violation'

NC2611224888 Paris AFP in English 2237 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Amman, Nov 26 (AFP)—The U.S. rejection of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's visa request to address the United Nations shows "which side the Americans are on," a PLO official said here Saturday shortly after Mr. 'Arafat arrived.

Mr. 'Arafat flew in Saturday night for talks with King Husayn of Jordan on this month's proclamation of an independent Palestinian state, just after Washington announced it had turned down the visa request because the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader supported terrorism.

Bassam Abu Sharif, Mr. 'Arafat's political advisor, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here that the rejection was "irrefutable proof of which side the Americans are on."

He said that it was "a blind encouragement to Israel in its aggressive attitude against athe Palestinian people."

The rejection was also a "violation of agreements between the United Nations and the United States," which give entry rights into the United States for all U.N. members and observers. The PLO, he added, has observer status.

Mr. Abu Sharif, who is accompanying Mr. 'Arafat on a two-day visit here, said the PLO chairman was waiting to see the full text of Washington's rejection before making an official statement. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile in Tunis, an official PLO spokesman called the rejection a "flagrant violation of international law and conventions" and a "refusal of peace" in the Middle East. Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman called on "Arab regimes to revise their relations" with Washington following the "American stance which is hostile to Arab and Palestinian causes." [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denounces Decision

JN2711181688 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1739 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The PLO has vehemently denounced the U.S. Government's refusal to grant brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] an entry visa to the United States to deliver the speech of the independent Palestinian state before the UN General Assembly.

Brother Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman, official PLO spokesman, has called on the Arab countries to reconsider their relations with the United States in light of the U.S. stand hostile to Arab and Palestinian causes.

He also urged the UN General Assembly to clearly announce its stand on this flagrant violation of international law. This violation is considered a serious encroachment upon the United Nations and all of its members and not only as a U.S. measure hostile to the PLO, he added.

Shultz Said 'Zionist Agent'

JN2711192488 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1744 GMT 27 Nov 88

["News analysis" by radio correspondent]

[Text] Brothers: Coming as it does after the proclamation of the new Palestinian state and its recognition to date by over 50 states, denial of an entry visa for brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to visit New York to deliver a key political speech outlining the future Palestinian political and diplomatic strategy is a Zionist-instigated, aggressive measure executed by Secretary Shultz, who holds marked pro-Zionist sympathies and anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab sentiments.

By refusing a visa to brother Abu 'Ammar—the Palestinian leader and symbol of the Palestinian people's struggle—Shultz has joined the list of permanent enemies of the Palestinian people: Kissinger, Alexander Haig, Balfour, Menachem Begin, Shamir, and company.

There is not much to choose between the Reagan Administration's secretary of state and any Zionist minister.

Represented by its foreign secretary, the U.S. Administration has made the point that it is little better than a puppet of the U.S.-based Zionist groups. The Zionist groups are directing the administration led by Ronald Reagan and his foreign secretary, George Shultz.

George Shultz' move is not directed just against the Palestinian people, revolution, uprising, and national aspirations; it is equally directed against the United

Nations itself, which has extended an invitation to brother leader Abu 'Ammar to visit its headquarters to speak to the world in the name of Palestine and the Arabs and deliver the civilized Palestinian message—the message of justice and peace, of the nascent Palestinian state, approved and proclaimed by the PNC in Algiers on 15 November 1988.

Hence, the hostile American decision once again puts on the agenda the subject of the continued presence of the UN headquarters on American soil. It has thus been proved that the continued presence of the UN headquarters in New York means the world body submitting to the trusteeship of U.S. policy, which always backs such dens of aggression, terror, and crime as the racist Zionist entity in Palestine and the racist South African regime and other such governments around the world.

This cowardly American move calls for the United Nations, if it is to remain an international peace assembly, to work toward having its headquarters relocated, or, at any rate, its meetings transferred to its European headquarters in Geneva so it does not remain hostage to the whims of certain U.S. Administration officials, including the Zionist agent George Shultz.

George Shultz has joined the black list that features numerous agents who will inevitably pay the price of their allegiance and blind support for the criminal Zionist movement represented by the occupying Zionist entity on our Palestinian land.

U.S. 'Archenemy of Peace'

JN2711205288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1856 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Brothers, O sons of our Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation:

Thus, the United States has once again proved—defying all explanations and justifications—that it is the archenemy of our Palestinian people, their cause, their struggle, and their national independence.

It has proved that it is also the archenemy of peace and of any efforts or initiatives to realize peace in this extremely sensitive world region; namely, the Middle East.

The United States clearly and flagrantly declared its categorical refusal to enable brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the leader of the Palestinian people, to address the world from the UN rostrum, given the present occasion when the entire world peoples and states are expressing their solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for national independence.

A fews days ago, Charles Redman revealed the U.S. refusal in a less obvious way when he resorted to lying by claiming the United States had not received an application for a visa for brother Abu 'Ammar. This prompted the United Nations to respond and refute the U.S State Department spokesman's statement.

However, the U.S. Administration could not persist in quibbling and deception for long. Eventually, this administration implemented Shamir's demands to the letter and announced its final refusal to grant brother Abu 'Ammar a visa to enable him to visit the United Nations and address the world from the UN rostrum.

The only new thing in this U.S. position, which is absolutely hostile to our people and nation and which is absolutely biased in Israel's favor, is that it was a confrontation of the large-scale international welcome of the historic decisions that were made by the PNC in its recent Algiers session, especially the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state.

In this case, the United States has openly chosen to establish a new barrier of hostility, hatred, and rancor against our people, against the PLO resolutions and initiatives, and against the international comunity's positive response to these resolutions and initiatives.

It is important to note here that this new U.S. position of open hostility has come following a long series of abject failures of all the direct and indirect U.S. pressures to prevent the convocation of the 12th PNC session and to prevent the issuance of the PLO decisions adopted at this session.

The United States has again proved that it fears the language of Palestinian peace exactly as it fears the language of Palestinian struggle and action and that by further hostility, hatred, rancor, and blind bias it thought it would be able to contain and besiege the logic of Palestinian peace and struggle and to continue its open war of sabotage against any progress by the Palestinians and the world toward formulating a genuine peace in this region.

Indeed, it is quite clear that President Ronald Reagan's administration during its last days is prompted by the logic of retaliation against the PLO, which firmly stood by its people against all U.S. pressures, moves, and manuvers throughout the past years—pressures and maneuvers aimed at ending the Palestinian struggle through biased projects, formulas, and initiatives that have no connection with peace, beginning with the Reagan plan and ending with George Shultz' plan, which he tried to market on his tours but which was destroyed at the hands of the rebellious people throughout the Palestinian territory.

This hostile U.S. position must of necessity end in the eventual fall of the false neutrality claimed by the United States and in the fall of the U.S. privilege as a partner in

the search for peace and in exposing its extreme hostility to our people and Arab nation and its contempt for the international community's rights and interests.

As for us in the PLO, we have always known that the phase of Palestinian independence we have begun must involve additional burdens for us in terms of fiercer struggles and confrontations with the Zionist entity and the United States, which is the absolute protector of this entity and which extends to it all means of aggression, occupation, rancor, and racism.

We have no choice but to escalate our persevering struggle, elevate its levels, and expand its arenas until the enemies are forced to submit to the fact of Palestinian independence.

In this respect, we call on our Arab nation—states, forces, and peoples—which stood by us and which is now living the dawn of a new phase of awakening, reconciliation, and unity to make more progress on the road of confronting this new wave of U.S. hostility.

We also appeal to the international community, which welcomed the Palestinian resolutions and intiatives, to defend their convictions and dignity against the U.S. logic of hostility, contempt, and overbearance.

Justifications 'Ridiculous'

JN2711214288 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1946 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Brother Ribhi 'Awad, chief of the Press and Information Office of the PLO Political Department, described the justifications given by the U.S. Administration for the refusal to grant brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat—FBIS] a visa to New York as unacceptable in letter and spirit.

He said the PLO will exercise its legitimate right within the framework of international law to defend the Palestinian people at the United Nations.

In a statement published today in Tunis, he said the justifications given by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for the refusal to grant brother leader Abu 'Ammar and the delegation accompanying him a visa to New York are ridiculous and utterly rejected.

He added: It was no secret the series of procrastinations by the U.S. Administration regarding brother Abu 'Ammar's request was in fact an introduction to the result annouced by Shultz last night on the subject of the visa.

Brother Ribhi 'Awad said the U.S. decision is totally opposed to the provisions and articles of the headquarters agreement between the international organization and the United States.

He added the entire world still remembers that the United States is the country most involved in terrorism throughout its black history, starting with the Bay of Pigs and passing through Vietnam, Chile, Grenada, Lebanon, and Libya.

This is in addition to its full, documented, and proven involvement in the Hammam al-Shat raid [against PLO headquarters in Tunis], the assassination of the leader symbol Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], and the continuation of the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people.

This aggression depends on the arms arsenal and tools of destruction, genocide, massacre, and invasion provided by the U.S. Administration.

Brother Ribhi 'Awad stressed the PLO will exercise its legitimate right within the framework of international law and international legitimacy by calling for a special session of the UN General Assembly in Geneva so the international organization can eliminate U.S pressure and blackmail which, in essence, are hostile to peoples and liberation movements in the world. And its constant blackmail by deliberate mixing between legitimate struggle and condemned international terrorism. [sentence as heard]

Brother Ribhi 'Awad stressed the PLO will proceed with confidence and determination in its just struggle inside the occupied homeland and through the uprising of its hero people until it achieves just peace and embodies the national inalienable rights of our people to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state.

Decision Said 'Real Surprise'

LD2811091988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0821 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 28 (KUNA)—A senior Palestinian official has threatened of reconsidering the recent moderate Palestinian political communique announced in Algiers by the PNC earlier this month.

In statements to local dailies AL-QABAS and AL-SIYASAH published here monday, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the American decision to turn down a visa application by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would eventually strengthen the Palestinian hardliners and embarrass advocates of moderate trends.

Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, described U.S. secretary of state as the most hostile American foreign minister to the Arabs, adding the U.S. decision rejecting Arafat's access to the U.N. premises is "an anti-peace action."

The PLO, he said, has asked the Arab foreign ministers to proceed to New York and to back a proposal calling for moving the General Assembly's discussion of the Palestine issue from New York to Geneva.

He said the American decision was 'a real surprise' to the PLO which had been told by friends that 'Arafat will obtain the entry visa to New York, and the PLO held on to the requested American measures in this regard.

Palestinian sources in Cairo said yesterday 'Arafat had sent messages to European leaders to put pressure on the U.S. to recognize the Palestinian legitimate rights.

PLO's 'Abbas on 'Arafat Visit to Jordan

JN2711103588 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 27 Nov 88 pp 18, 12

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Amman—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas, also known as Abu Mazin, has said the PLO leadership will discuss with Jordanian officials during Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan the issue of holding an Arab summit so the Arabs can study the joint future steps following their unanimous recognition of the Palestinian state and the recent PNC resolutions.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, 'Abbas said: We will discuss with the brothers in Jordan the subject of reviving the seven-member committee stemming from the Fes summit conference, which was chaired by His Majesty King Husayn and His Majesty King Hassan II of Morroco and which formed the required mechanism to implement the Fes conference resolutions.

Therefore, it should be revived in order to form an Arab mechanism for a common Arab and Palestinian attitude toward the other countries.

'Abbas said another topic of discussion is Yasir 'Arafat's visit to the United Nations, indicating that a large number of Arab foreign ministers, including the Jordanian foreign minister, will be there.

Therefore, he said there should be coordination for the sake of adopting a unified and specific stand that will be presented in the U.S. arena and that will show that Yasir 'Arafat and the Arab foreign minsters can benefit from this visit to bring pressure to bear on the U.S. stand, which has not yet been specified, toward the Palestinian resolutions.

Regarding the anticipated importance of His Majesty King Husayn's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat and the future joint movement, particularly following the PNC resolutions, Mahmud 'Abbas said:

We, in the PLO, greatly care for our distinguished relations with sisterly Jordan. We continuously seek to strengthen and solidify these relations. From this premise, the previous meetings, the latest of which was the Al-'Aqabah meeting, were held.

He referred to Jordan's important role in support of the Palestine question as well as its key role in the international conference which we are all seeking to hold.

Consequently, we, in the PLO, must coordinate with Jordan and the other Arab countries in order to come out with a formula of an Arab understanding in preparation for this conference whose convocation has become possible.

Abu Mazin added that the PLO appreciates Jordan's recognition of the Palestinian state and the PNC resolutions.

'Abbas praised His Majesty King Husayn's stands in support of the Palestine question, making reference to his majesty's U.S. television interview in which he stressed that the PLO has done all it had to do and the United States should reply and respond to the PLO move.

Asked by SAWT AL-SHA'B about the United States' refusal to give PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States and the U.S. Administration's refusal to recognize the Palestinian state, 'Abbas said:

Jordan agrees with us that the resolutions adopted by the PNC contained all that the Americans wanted from the PLO. This is confirmed in official messages sent to Jordan and communicated to us. They included a request for the approval of Resolutions 242 and 338.

As His Majesty King Husayn said, these resolutions were accepted by us and there is no excuse or justification for the U.S. refusal of the PNC resolutions or the recognition of the Palestinian state although we are demanding nothing from the U.S. Administration as it is on its way out and another is coming in.

The one going out cannot speak and the one coming in will not speak now. As for the United States' refusal to grant 'Arafat an entry visa, the U.S. Administration, in accordance with the "headquarters agreement," has no right to deny him this visa.

If this happens, we will call for holding the UN session in a place other than New York.

Regarding the impact of Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state, 'Abbas said the Egyptian recognition of the state has canceled forever that part on the Palestinians in the Camp David accords, stressing there is no longer any justification for Arab Egypt to remain outside the framework of the Arab world.

'Abbas called on the Arab states to officially return Egypt to the Arab League so it can exercise its activity and influence through it on all levels.

Replying to another question by SAWT AL-SHA'B on the more pressing issues that preoccupy the attention of the Palestinian leadership, 'Abbas said:

Most prominent among these issues is gaining further support for the PNC resolutions and the Palestinian state from the states which recognized it and whose number is now over 60.

Secondly, and top among the priorities we have, is to direct our eyes to the European states which will hold their summit next month. We want the European stand to be distinguished and to move a step forward so there will be some sort of recognition and greater acceptance than what was mentioned at the European foreign minsters conference.

Thirdly, there should be pressure in the direction of the United States so it will accept the principle of dialogue with and recognition of the PLO.

Fourthly, there should be continuous work with the Arab brothers in order to hold an international peace conference.

Regarding the repercussions of the formation of the Israeli Government on the Palestinian action and the situation in the occupied territories, Abu Mazin said:

Israel is in a state of isolation and is now alone in the international arena in its rejection of the Palestinian resolutions. In case a government is formed from the Likud and the religious parties, its isolation will increase and cause them harm even from the U.S. society because their presence in power indicates some sort of retreat and fundamentalist intransigence which do not satisfy the American or European Jewish communities.

Likewise, if a coalition government is formed from the Labor Party and the Likud, there will be some sort of paralysis because each of the two will stand in the way of the other and the situation will consequently be more complicated.

From our viewpoint, the peace process does not hinge upon Israel but on the U.S. Administration which can impose peace on the region or not.

Asked when the PLO leadership expects to establish the state on the ground and become a tangible fact, the PLO Executive Committee member said:

This depends on factors, foremost being the continuation of all forms of Palestinian struggle. This struggle will not stop because it is our legal right. Moreover, diplomatic activity should be redoubled with the aim of winning the support of world public opinion, in addition to Arab solidarity and the support of big powers.

The Soviet Union supports us and has recognized the state and the resolutions. The United States is required to accept these resolutions and we can then set up the state of our land, Palestine.

'Abbas stressed that what took place and what was approved at the PNC was "the minor jihad" and said we are now approaching "the major jihad" that is represented in how the next phase of Palestinian action and joint Arab action will unfold.

Abu Mazin denied that 'Arafat's Arab tours are part of a certain Arab alliance or axis, stating that the PLO and the Palestinian people are part of the Arab nation and will not accept to be part of an Arab axis.

The Palestinian people are in need of the entire Arab nation and 'Arafat's visits are aimed at pooling the Arab stand in support of the coming steps. They are also aimed at expressing thanks and appreciation for the Arab states, particularly, sisterly Jordan, which recognized the Palestinian state.

Mahmud 'Abbas called on the Arab countries to support the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee because it rendered great services to our people in the occupied territories and helped them to remain steadfastness and stay on their land.

OPEC Affairs

Iran Agrees to New OPEC Production Accord

LD2711085588 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27 IRNA—Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh today announced Iran's agreement with the new OPEC accord on production ceiling and quota for member states.

The oil minister told IRNA in a telephone interview that the chairman of the OPEC meet Rilwanu Lukman had been informed of Iran's agreement through its representatives in Vienna this morning.

With Iran's endorsement of the OPEC initiative, the 84th ministerial meet of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna is expected to wind up its consultations this afternoon after issuing a statement announcing a unanimous agreement.

The new accord sets the OPEC production for the next six months of the coming year at 18.5 million and Iran and Iraq will have an equal quota of 2.64 million barrels per day.

Some OPEC members will devote part of their quota to Iraq to enable it enjoy a production parity with Iran.

The agreement by Tehran came after the oil minister's consultations with the heads of the three branches of the government Saturday and with cabinet ministers this morning.

With the new agreement oil prices are expected to sharply rise in the coming days.

The price of oil has already soared as much as two dollars over the past few days as optimism rose that the 84th OPEC ministerial meet in Vienna would end in success. The formal session started on Monday.

According to the oil minister the current OPEC meet had succeeded in resolving a number of old issues, including definitions, production control, the neutral zone production, and deciding a suitable price for OPEC oil.

"Iran once again displayed its spirit of cooperation for OPEC members to reach a unanimous agreement," he told IRNA.

He also shared the optimism that the oil market will boost following the agreement but warned that this should not cause violations by the member states of the OPEC approvals.

He said Iran's agreement on parity with Iraq was due to the fact that part of its quota would come from other member states.

In conclusion, the oil minister said the future of OPEC was bright and expressed hopes its members would act in accordance with the "realities."

Further on Acceptance

LD2711122388 Tehran IRNA in English 1210 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, Nov 27 IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh is not planning to return here from Tehran where government leaders accepted an OPEC plan to reduce oil production, an Iranian official said.

The acting head of the Iranian delegation also stressed after a meeting with OPEC chairman, Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman this afternoon, that Iran would only sign an agreement based on proposals accepted by the ministerial session when Aqazadeh was present.

"The Iranian delegation will sign the agreement which was previously presented as a proposed package," Fereydun Bakhshili told IRNA.

"We will only sign the proposed agreement which was studied and accepted by the Government of Iran," he said without elaborating.

The statement came as rumours circulated of a new rift among members.

Informed sources said Aqazadeh's decision to stay in Tehran was apparently taken with the belief that Iran's agreement with a new OPEC package would pave the way for a formal accord. But if new issues were raised he may reconsider and return to Vienna, the sources added.

Aqazadeh announced Iran's acceptance of a plan to set new production quotas for the 13-member cartel with the aim of reducing total output to boost sagging prices.

"Iran once again displayed its spirit of cooperation for OPEC members to reach a unanimous agreement," he told IRNA in Tehran.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry on Denial of 'Arafat Visa

LD2711193888 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In Algiers, the Foreign Ministry's spokesman regarded the U.S. attitude as a negative and unjustified development. The spokesman added that by this decision the U.S. Government is resorting to an oppressive use of its administrative jurisdictions at the expense of its commitments as a country playing host to the United Nations organization.

The United States is trying to impose, by exercising the fait accompli, its unilateral attitudes vis-a-vis the Palestinian question, thus contravening the collective will of the international community.

In view of this act which inflicts a serious blow to the UN, which was and should always be the framework of peace and dialogue, Algeria calls on the member states and the bodies of the organization to fully shoulder their responsibilities by preventing a new violation of the Palestinian people's right to make its voice heard and by strictly respecting the headquarters' agreement. [passage omitted]

FLN Central Committee Meets; Bendjedid Speaks

LD2611164588 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] [Correspondent] At approximately 1030 the 21st FLN Central Committee session began at the Club des Pins, chaired by President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the party.

Politburo members were nominated in accordance with Central Committee regulations. They are Hocine Ben Maalam, Mohamed Saidi, Mouloud Kacem Nait Belkacem, and Djelloul Malaika. Mohamed Saidi read out the agenda for the Sixth FLN Congress.

Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic and FLN secretary general, said in his opening speech that the party will work under circumstances full of transformations and change. Addressing the definition of democracy, the president said:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] Yes, democracy necessary, and I think that is the correct direction. [sentence indistinct] It was not embarked on yesterday, because of the recent events. On the contrary, we believe in and began to facilitate the general atmosphere. The same goes for the economic situation and the changes within the framework of reforms so they may affect all sensitive sides, that is, the economic and political fields. The sixth congress should address itself responsibly to the proposals for reforming the party's basic law. [end recording]

[Correspondent] The president asked everybody to take responsibility for the reforms, to make the necessary substantive changes, political or economic, and to eschew selfishness and private interests. In this context, the president said:

[Begin Bendjedid recording] What is required from all the loyal ones of this nation, foremost officials and FLN Central Committee members, is to give impetus to the necessary reforms, be it in the political or the economic field. These are necessary, objective, and possible reforms, as far as the coming period is concerned.

That is all I can say, and I thank you—two or three times—for your assistance to me during this short period. Five years is a short time in the life of a nation. See you, God willing, at the next session. Thank you. [end recording]

[Correspondent] Following a speech by Abdelhamid Mehri, who is in charge of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, the resolutions [ar la'ihat] of the general policy were read out by Mohamed Saidi. The endorsed resolutions reaffirm the strong ties between democracy and socialism in Algeria.

These resolutions fall within the framework of the reforms that have been witnessed by the country since the Fifth FLN Congress, in the industrial, agricultural, or administrative sectors, or in political life. The resolutions, moreover, point out that political reform will contribute to a positive transformation of political life in the country, within the context of respect for its laws. It is a great task awaiting the Sixth FLN Congress to face up to the great challenges.

Further on Bendjedid Speech

LD2711114588 Algiers APS in English 1034 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Algiers, 27/11/88 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the FLN Party, made a speech at the opening of the first session of the Central Committee, in which he insisted on the particular importance of the 6th congress which he held at a time where the country is living through important political and economic mutations.

The mutations, the head of state continued, are the results of the long process of development waged by the FLN which is the liberator of people and the author of the edification and consolidation of the economic independence.

The FLN, he said, is required to play an important role in the political life by taking in charge the deep political reforms by the mobilization of all the sound energies of the nation in order to over come the challenges the country is facing.

The FLN party thanked members of the Central Committee and to all the militants for the active role they played in the realization of objectives assigned by the 5th congress the party and the country in order to accelerate the process of economic, social and cultural development [sentence as received].

He also paid homage to members of the political leadership for the permanent support they provided him with in the carrying out of his noble and heavy test.

Finally, the president of the Republic expressed his conviction to see the 6th FLN Party Congress reach results which will be up to challenges and aspirations of the Algerian people thanks to the degree of consciousness of militants and their attachment to values and principles of the November resolution.

Mehri on Topics

LD2611230380 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] On the eve of the Sixth FLN Party Congress Mr Abdelhamid Mehri, official in charge of the party's Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, briefed the national press, during his meeting with them at the Club des Nations, on the latest preparations and arrangements for the congress.

In this context Mr Mehri pointed out that this should be considered as the first meeting with the national press to inform them on the various arrangements which, he asserted, were made under good conditions to arrange the means of transportation and the accommodation, and to prepare the political atmosphere for the holding of the congress.

He added that the criteria for attending are the same as those for the fifth congress; some 5000 delegates will take part in it, which will include the grassroots' delegates, Central Committee members, and the nation's cadres. Concerning the topics to be discussed by the conferees, Mr Mehri pointed out that there are three topics:

— An assessment of the development policy and the drawing up of guidelines for a new policy.

— The country's administrative organization, including the people's assemblies, free candidacy, and the introduction of reforms on the party's statute.

— The third topic will deal with the resolutions of the general policy determining the criteria and guidelines to transform the party into a front.

Mr Mehri pointed out that five committees will be formed during the convening of the congress. They are the committee for development; the committee for organization; the committee for political affairs; and the committees for ascertaining membership and candidacies.

In this context he asserted that some very important resolutions concerning these topics will be adopted by the congress, which also has to designate the party's candidate for the presidency.

Concerning the reports to be discussed by the congress Mr Abdelhamid Mehri said that there are the reports of the grassroots which were adopted during the regional conferences—reports concerning development and organizational issues.

He also pointed to the draft reports which were prepared for the first time, in the history of party's congresses, by a national committee to limit the conferees' debates, in addition to the report of the party's secretary general.

Concerning the general atmosphere which prevailed at the preparations, the official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat asserted that the debates were characterized by deepness and frankness, as well as an opportunity for the militants to express their own convictions, fears, and aspirations on how to continue the struggle under the banner of the FLN.

In light of such an atmosphere, Mr Mehri said, it is however necessary to draw two conclusions:

— The militants' great eagerness to uphold the fundamental principles and choices of the FLN party.

— The militants' acceptance of the reforms.

Mr Mehri concluded his meeting with the national press by expressing his conviction that such a conference will be a responsible one, at which discussions will stem from the concern for the country's supreme interest and will open a new era in Algeria's political life.

Egypt

Reaction to Denial of U.S. Visa for 'Arafat

'Abd al-Majid Postpones UN Trip

NC2711120388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1148 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—MENA has learned that it has been decided to postpone a visit which Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was due to begin to New York on Tuesday to attend the meeting of the UN General Assembly on UN Solidarity Day with the Palestinian people. The postponement comes in the wake of recent developments.

It has been learned that the postponement decision was adopted in light of recent events and the U.S. refusal to grant an entry visa to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat who wanted to deliver a speech from the UN podium emphasizing the decisions adopted by the PNC during its extraordinary session in Algiers on 15 November.

'Abd al-Majid Views Decision

NC2711154388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—The Egyptian Foreign Ministry has expressed regret over the refusal by the United States to grant PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States so that he could deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly on the occasion of the International Day for Solidarity with the Palestinian Cause.

This has been stated by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who noted that the decision by the United States to deny 'Arafat an entry visa contradicts the provisions of the 1947 UN Headquarters convention.

He added that this decision also is inconsistent with the assertions by the United States, as a primary party to the peace process, of its obligation to work for achieving a durable peace in the region.

'Abd al-Majid pointed out that the decision to prevent Yasir 'Arafat from presenting the Palestinian people's just cause before the UN General Assembly in light of the 15 November PNC resolutions, which have gained international support, should not weaken the resolve of the forces working for a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Rather, he said, it should be an incentive for the moderate forces, which have attained wide international credibility, to pursue their efforts to achieve peace and support for the Palestinian rights.

'Abd al-Majid, U.S. Envoy Meet

NC2711195488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner this evening. They discussed the latest developments in the Middle East situation.

MENA has learned that Dr 'Abd al-Majid appraised the U.S. ambassador of Egypt's stand on the U.S. refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enter U.S. territory to participate in the UN General Assembly meeting and deliver a speech on the occasion of day of solidarity with the Palestinians to emphasize the PLO's peaceful trend and repudiation of terrorism in accordance with the resolutions adopted by the PNC during its meeting in Algiers on 15 November.

These resolutions affirmed the PLO's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, as well as the principle of confederation with Jordan.

People's Assembly Group Comments

NC2811113488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Nov (MENA)—The People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee has expressed its profound regret over the U.S. Government's refusal to grant PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to attend the UN General Assembly debate on the Palestinian issue.

In its statement, the Foreign Relations Committee stresses that the U.S. decision contravenes the United Nations Headquarters Agreement signed in 1947.

The statement appeals to world parliaments to support the Palestinian cause, not only as a national liberation issue that is worthy of backing but as an issue that represents the cornerstone of one of the most complicated regional problems.

Failure to find a just settlement, the statement says, could affect security and stability in the sensitive Middle East region, with subsequent negative and serious reprecussions on world peace and security.

The Foreign Relations Committee hails the spirit of steadfastness, courage, and sacrifice that the Palestinian people have demonstrated in defending their entity, identity, and their legitimate right to freedom and self-determination.

The committee emphasizes that the declaration of a Palestinian state, the acceptance of negotiations to settle the Palestinian problem on the basis of Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, and the decision to refrain from terrorism constitute an extremely important transformation in the course of the Palestinian problem and place it on the right path toward a solution.

The committee appeals to the international community to intensify efforts to enable the Palestinian people to exercise their legitimate rights to freedom and self-determination.

Opposition Leaders on Issue

NC2711191288 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—Opposition party leaders have expressed displeasure at the U.S. State Department's decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to deliver a speech at the United Nations on the day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, set by the United Nations as falling on 29 November.

Ibrahim Shukri, leader of opposition in the Egyptian parliament and head of the Labor Party, has strongly criticized the United States, describing its position as intransigent.

He pointed out that 'Arafat did not request an official visit to the United States; rather, he demanded his right as chairman of the PLO, which enjoys observer status at the international organization, to deliver a speech at the United Nations on the Palestinian issue. Shukri said that this stand constitutes an arbitrary measure in the use of U.S. laws.

He added that, by its continued support for Israel's policy, the United States is losing much of its credibility and reputation in the Arab and international arenas. He called on the Arab countries to pressure the United States to retreat from its position, expressing his belief that the U.S. measure aims at stopping the overwhelming international support for the proclamation of the Palestinian state.

For his part, Liberal Party leader Mustafa Kamil Murad has appealed to the Arab countries and all peace-loving nations to exert more efforts and pressure on the United States to retract its decision, which is inconsistent with international charters and norms, particularly with regard to the UN Charter.

The Liberal Party leader said the United States must reconsider its decision and adopt a stand commensurate with its international standing to allow the people the freedom to practice their rights and present their causes to the international organization.

Meanwhile, the NPUG released a communique today in which it expressed its dissatisfaction with the U.S. decision and called for firm stands toward the intransigent U.S. Administration regarding the Palestinian people and cause.

In addition, Socialist Labor Party leader Ahmad Mujahid remarked that the U.S. stand explains that the world organization's international laws have no executive powers and that they are dependent on the strength of the party in whose favor a resolution is passed.

Yasin Siraj al-Din, chairman of the Neo-Wafd Party's parliamentary commission, has pointed out that the U.S. decision will further complicate the situation for Israel itself, the country for which the United States made this decision, because it will help to generate greater support for the newly born Palestinian state, which more than 60 countries have now recognized.

He said that the United States should reconsider its resolution, especially because the international charters consider the territory on which the international organization is established as international land, to which any representative of any state or organization must not be denied entry.

Mubarak Comments on Relations With Syria

NC2711121988 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] In light of the halting of media campaigns between Cairo and Damascus, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak revealed today that contacts are currently under way in connection with restoring diplomatic relations between Egypt and Syria.

The Egyptian president did not mention in his statement the party which is carrying out these contacts.

Information Minister on Mubarak Tabah Comments

NC2711121788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Nov (MENA)—President Mubarak has asserted that there is no problem with regard to the return of Tabah to Egypt. He pointed out that the procedures for implementing the Tabah ruling have actually begun through the work of the tripartite committee in Washington which is holding successive meetings. He reiterated that "Egyptian Tabah will return to the motherland."

His excellency stated that a meeting will be held tomorrow, Monday, to finish drawing up of all details pertaining to the procedures for Tabah's return now that the international arbitration tribunal's verdict on Egypt's right to Tabah has been issued.

This was reported by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Husni Mubarak's meeting last night with the members of the NDP's political club, which was holding the first meeting of its new session. The meeting lasted for 3 hours.

On the Palestinian issue, President Mubarak praised Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and stressed Egypt's full support for all the PNC resolutions which emphasize the renunciation of terrorism, recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338, a confederal future relationship with Jordan, and also the specification of the Palestinian state's borders. His excellency expressed hope that these positive resolutions will be supported by the international community.

The information minister said that President Husni Mubarak pointed out that Egypt supported the PNC resolutions from the first moment, including the resolution pertaining to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The president added that Egypt following this support with recognition of the new Palestinian state and emphasized that support is stronger than recognition, saying, "despite this, we extended recognition so that the matter will be clear and not subject to suspicion or comment".

His excellency affirmed that Egypt makes its own decisions, has its own free will, and does not submit to any pressure or warning from any quarter. He added that "Egypt rejects such things."

The president noted that Egypt will do its utmost in the coming stage for the sake of convening an international peace conference. He remarked that the conference will take a long time to surmount all obstacles and will need concerted efforts by all the parties attending it.

It also requires the coordination of Arab stances for the sake of attaining stability and peace in the Middle East, he said.

Safwat al-Sharif added that President Husni Mubarak referred in his statements to Egyptian-Jordanian coordination and declared that constant contacts are being conducted with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and with the Jordanian monarch who is due to visit Egypt soon.

His excellency stressed the importance of Arab coordination both on the Arab and Palestinian levels particularly as "a new U.S. Administration will take office in January, and a new Israeli government will be formed, and, consequently, new moves must be made to reactivate the Palestinian issue."

The president asserted that Egypt places its influence and capabilities in communicating with all international parties at the disposal of the Arab nation's causes, notably the Palestinian cause.

President Mubarak referred to the restoration of diplomatic ties between Egypt and Algeria. He noted that Algeria is a fraternal Arab country.

On developments in fraternal Sudan and Egyptian efforts to establish stability for the Sudanese people, President Mubarak stated that Egypt is doing its utmost to achieve reconciliation in fraternal Sudan and to improve this country's relations with its neighbors.

He referred to the recent Egyptian contacts with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to conclude a reconciliation and facilitate the recent agreement between the leader of the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party and John Garang.

The president voiced hope that positive attitudes will be adopted in Sudan at this time in a manner that will resolve the southern crisis.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak also dealt with a number of the citizens during his meeting with the members of the NDP's political club. Al-Sharif noted the care the president takes to discuss these issues with the NDP leaders who will then explain them to party members and to the citizens all over the Republic.

President Husni Mubarak discussed the issue which occupies many people in Egypt, namely the capital investment companies issue. His excellency pointed out that the decision which was recently adopted with regard to these companies could not have been adopted prior to the passing of a law regarding them.

He explained that if the government had intervened before then, depositors would have wrongly imagined that its intervention was going to be the cause of the companies' collapse.

The information minister said that President Mubarak added that the government had been closely watching the situation. When it became clear that these companies "as a result of the behavior of those in charge and their disputes" were going to face dangers, the government found it imperative to intervene to safeguard the depositors' money and to organize the functions of the said companies in a way that would make it possible for serious companies to act to serve the national economy and provide sufficient guarantees for the protection of the depositors' money.

The information minister also reported that President Husni Mubarak referred to rumors that say that some senior officials unlawfully received sums of money from these companies. He announced that investigations are being conducted.

He asserted that the state never covers up for any official and pointed out that numerous officials who were mentioned in the rumors have never received any money and do not have deposits in the capital investment companies.

President Mubarak stressed that the state does not protect any citizen, great or lowly, who has played a role in harming the depositor's interests or has obtained money which does not belong to him.

The information minister also said that President Husni Mubarak referred to what is being said about the possible disbursement of a percentage of the depositors' money.

The president declared that this cannot be done until after the whole picture becomes clear and after the depositors' account statements and the true account numbers are specified. He added that the full financial implications of these companies which are under investigation or are rearranging their status to conform to the law, must be determined.

President Mubarak said: "We must not do things in a hurry until we reach conclusions about all the data connected with these companies."

His excellency added that he appreciates the difficult position of the small depositors but said that we must be patient until we know all the facts. He noted that this will be for the good of the depositors.

Answering a question on banning the publication of reports on the capital investment companies issue, President Husni Mubarak said that the prosecution authorities who are conducting the investigation were the ones who halted all such publication for the good of the investigation.

He declared that this was not a government decision and emphasized that the interest of the state is to have the truth revealed.

The information minister said that President Mubarak responded to demands by some party figures that the investigations be expedited by saying:

"The investigations must be completed. Public prosecutors are doing their utmost and working long hours to complete the investigation. When the investigation is completed, the government will be able to discuss the issue in light of the results so that the appropriate decision may be made."

The president affirmed that the depositors will be given priority in obtaining their deposits before taxes are collected from the said companies.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak discussed the economic situation. He pointed out that there are difficulties, but the government is doing its utmost to surmount them.

The president said: "We are following an economic plan to reform the Egyptian economy for the short-, mid-, and long-terms. He noted that currently adopted economic measures are designed as far as possible not to harm the poor.

The information minister said that President Mubarak told the members of the NDP political club that constant efforts are being made to maintain a reasonable balance between salaries and prices, noting that no rich or developing country has succeeded in attaining complete balance in this respect.

President Mubarak declared that we submit our problems for discussion with total openness. He affirmed that Egypt, in its current economic condition, is better off than other countries who have greater revenues and smaller populations. He said those countries are currently facing severe economic crises.

Safwat al-Sharif said that President Husni Mubarak remarked that Egypt directs all its efforts and capabilities toward the good of economic development despite all crises and explained that what was achieved during the first economic plan and during the first and second years of the second economic plan has become evident.

He noted that in addition to this economic development, Egypt currently enjoys a climate of freedom and democracy.

President Mubarak urged that individual efforts be exerted in the undertaking of projects that serve the environment in all fields to achieve social solidarity. He noted that our Islamic religious values and Egyptian traditions constantly advocate such solidarity.

The information minister said that President Mubarak took care to meet with the NDP's leaders at the beginning of the new political and parliamentary season. He added that his excellency will also attend a number of meetings of the NDP's parliamentary group and joint meetings of the NDP's specialized committees which will discuss a number of economic and social issues.

He said that his excellency will also attend a meeting next month of the members of NDP secretariat and the secretaries of the NDP's branches in all the Republic's governorates.

Libya

'Arafat Received by Al-Qadhdhafi 25 Nov

LD2511171788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1545 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 25 November, (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Yasir 'Arafat who explained to the brother leader his political moves in the region and the objectives of the PNC resolution concerning the establishment of the Palestinian state over the entire Palestinian national territory with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat also explained to the brother leader the unjust and illegitimate attitude of the U.S. Administration represented in its refusal to grant him a visa to enter the United States with the aim of preventing him from addressing the UN General Assembly.

'Arafat on U.S. Visa, EEC

LD2611025888 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2029 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Interview with Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive committee chairman, by unidentified JANA correspondent "prior to 'Arafat's departure from the Great Jamahiriyah this evening"—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] [Words indistinct] First, how do you assess the various states' recognition of Palestinian independence [words indistinct]?

['Arafat] Without doubt, there has been a sympathetic international response. This was reflected in the great number of recognitions which today has reached 62 Arab, nonaligned, African, Asian, socialist, and Latin American states. Thanks to God, recognitions are still coming in from more of these states which are friendly to the Palestinian people.

[Correspondent] In the Knesset, Sadat recognized Jerusalem, the land of Israel, and the people of Israel. Now, however, Mubarak has recognized the State of Palestine. How do you (?evaluate this)?

['Arafat] And holy Jerusalem as its capital! The statement that was issued, the political statement or the document of independence, mentioned setting up the state of Palestine on the soil of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Undoubtedly, the states which recognized the state of Palestine also recognized holy Jerusalem as the capital of this state. The Egyptian recognition shows that a breakthrough has been made in the position which the United States and Israel tried to erect in the face of our Arab motherland, a position that bypassed the Palestinian cause, right, and state, the Palestinian state whose capital is Jerusalem.

Thus, we consider Egypt's recognition of this state whose capital is Jerusalem as very important and historic because it clearly indicates the importance of Jerusalem in the Arab and Islamic worlds and among all the honorable and free of the world.

[Correspondent] Sorry if my question is long. What is your comment on the statement of the EEC, the EEC that recognized the Israel of 1948 without any legal justifications?

['Arafat] I think that despite the fact that there is a significant positive element in the statement, I think the statement is insufficient. It has failed to give the Palestinian people what we have been expecting from the EEC. The communique tries to avoid the European responsibility toward the Palestinian people and their sacred rights, rights that have been recognized by the world: our rights to return, self-determination, and to set up our own independent state.

For this reason, I say that although there is a limited positive element in the EEC communique, we had hoped that the EEC would give more momentum to the struggle for rights, justice, and the just cause of our Palestinian people.

I have made this position public more than once. I know that the EEC positions are different from each other. Some European countries wanted a communique to be issued mentioning a Palestinian state. At the same time, I also know that there are states in Europe that were seeking to take several steps backward.

For this reason, the communique was a compromise of the positions of these European states.

[Correspondent] Since Arab and friendly countries have recognized the Palestinian state, why did you not adopt any stance against the United States which is stopping you from addressing the United Nations? What is your opinion on (?this)?

['Arafat] First of all, yesterday in the Gulf—and I am repeating this now—I announced that if the U.S. Administration keeps insisting on its hostile stance toward the Palestinian people—toward our rights and toward recognizing these rights which were given to us by international legitimacy—and if it keeps insisting—as U.S. Secretary of State Shultz always says, that he will never give visas to a Palestinian delegation to attend the United Nations General Assembly where Palestinian issue will be discussed on 1 December—if these U.S. positions do not change, yesterday I called for, and today I repeat my call, for transferring this United Nations General Assembly session to the UN building in Geneva. This is the least we can demand.

From my position, in the name of the Palestinian people and their just cause, I call on all my brothers in the Arab nation and all our friends everywhere in the world to help us so that we will be able to hold this UN session on the Palestinian issue outside U.S. territories, if the U.S. Administration continues with this obstinate and biased stance, which gives Israel unlimited support with all military, political, economic, diplomatic, and media means.

I would like to say that the only answer, for which I hope from my brothers and from [words indistinct] is to transfer this session immediately to the UN building in Geneva.

[Correspondent] What is your reaction to the statement by President Francois Mitterrand, to the effect that they do not recognize a state without borders. However, France did recognize Israel without borders.

['Arafat] You have yourself provided the answer. It is the same story. I have said: How can the French say they do not recognize the Palestinian state because it has no borders?

Well, I want to ask him: Does Israel have borders? Israel is the only state at the United Nations that has no borders, no map. How is it then that Europe, including France, recognizes this Israeli state? Is it because there are two weighing systems and two measuring systems? Because the measuring system is biased toward Israel at our expense?

I have already said this and I repeat it once again before the world public: As my brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] has said: If these European and Western postiions do not change, then we will call Israel's UN

membership into question. We have in our possession the norms and documents which would enable us, if we stand up as an Arab nation, to demand an end to Israel's UN membership.

[Correspondent] What is your definition of the terrorism clause which you included in the political statement, saying that you will act against the enemy only inside your lands, although they are acting against you worldwide and the operation against Abu Jihad [reference to assassination of Khalil al-Wazir in April 1988] is the best example to this?

['Arafat] And also the bombing of my headquarters [in Tunis]...

[Correspondent, interrupting]...and the camps in Lebanon?

['Arafat] ...and the camps in Lebanon; the bombing of the Iraqi reactor; the continuous Israeli maritime piracy, the latest of which is the yacht which they seized in the Adriatic Sea; the blowing up of civilian ships at anchor; the hunting of PLO representatives in Europe; and finally the Palestinian nuclear scientist killed by the Mossad in Washington. He was one of the most important of our Arab scientists. A Palestinian nuclear scientist. They killed him.

In this respect, I say: We are the victims of terrorism, and Israel, with unlimited support from the U.S. Administration is engaged in state-sponsored terrorism. For this reason, we oppose terrorism; we are the victims of terrorism. We are against any crimes committed against civilians, children, and women because this is a religious commandment.

There should be no outrage committed against children or women. In his orders to the Islamic armies Abu Bakr [one of the caliphs] even said: Do not uproot trees. But we have the right, and proceeding from the UN Charter, it is our right as a persecuted people facing occupation and Israeli racism—and consistent with the UN Charter and resolutions—we have the right to use all means to resist this Zionist, racist, heinous, Israeli occupation.

[Correspondent] What is your assessment of your visit to the Great Jamahiriyah?

['Arafat] With pride, I say that we start from this brotherhood, which binds us, this revolutionary brotherhood which binds us with the brother leader and with our brothers, the Libyan people and leadership.

This revolutionary brotherhood stems from the fact that Libya is a revolutionary base, on which we rely and in which we take shelter for the sake of following the path of our Arab nation until its victory over all its enemies, including this Zionist Israeli enemy, and until we are able to raise the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, over the walls of Jerusalem, over the minarets of Jerusalem, and over the churches of Jerusalem. They think this is remote, but we think it is soon, and we are telling the truth.

That is why the talks which I held with my brother leader Mu'ammar I consider positive and constructive. God willing, we will continue this fraternal march together until victory.

Al-Qadhdhafi Message on U.S. 'Anti-UN Position'
LD2811130788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1105 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following telegram to the world's presidents and kings concerning the anti-UN position of the United States:

The U.S. infringement on the UN organization has reached the point at which the peoples and states of the world can no longer remain silent. This infringement has reached the point at which the leaders of the oppressed peoples and the world revolutionary leaders are prevented from expressing and defending issues pertaining to the fate of their respective peoples, so much so that membership of the United Nations for any state has become worthless since it depends on a decision from the U.S. Administration concerning granting or refusing an entry visa to the UN premises.

The states of the world recognize the PLO. Nevertheless, its chairman is prevented from going to the United Nations, and this in itself is a denial of this organization by the United States.

By this practice, the United States does not regard the United Nations as an international organization of interest to all the states of the world. It deals with it as if it were a U.S. organization, and it behaves toward it in a childish and foolish manner.

It persistently humiliates this organization, beginning with unfair use of the right of veto, to impeding the organization in performing its role in the way that serves the interests of the peoples and states that set it up.

Given its nature and the objectives for which it works, the United Nation is an international organization of interest to all the states of the world, and therefore, granting a visa to go to the United Nations must not be dependent on the U.S. will.

The United Nations should, through its offices, grant its own visas so that the exercise by an state or president or their right to express their opinion or defend their respective countries will not be dependent on the U.S. will.

If the United States insists on bringing its political problems into the work of the United Nations, a matter that has clearly become an impediment to the role of the organization, then the logical thing to do is to transfer

the headquarters of the organization from the United States to a location where participation is guaranteed, without any obligation or hindrance.

Otherwise, many a world state would leave the United Nations and withdraw from it, and the fate of the world would be threatened as it was before the setting up of this organization.

The practices of the U.S. Administration toward the United Nations has reached such a dangerous extent that they require that we all take up a stand of commitment and responsibility to save the existence of the organization and the fate of the world from U.S. arrogance and irresponsible practices.

Foreign Liaison Bureau on 'Arafat Visa Decision

LD2711142788 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The U.S. State Department has issued its decision to refuse Brother Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to participate in the UN General Assembly's debates on the Palestinian issue. A source from the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison made the following comment on this issue.

This decision clearly expresses the U.S. Administration's bias toward and complete submission to the Zionist enemy, as well as its enemity toward the Arab nation. The decision is but a single link in one long chain. It underlines what already has been stated by the Great Jamahiriyah to the effect that the United States is not a suitable host for the (?international organization.

This is because of its [word indistinct] and because it does not respect the commitments it undertook in the headquarters agreement. This forces us once again to call for transferring the UN premises to a country that will respect its international commitments.

While condemning this extreme and hostile U.S. attitude, the Great Jamahiriyah calls on the international community to stand up to U.S. arrogance and stubbornness, which is likely to cause the United Nations to lose its effectiveness and respect.

Al-Qadhdhafi Statement on Jallud Visit to Italy

LD2611140788 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1122 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tripoli, 26 Nov (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has made a statement to JANA in which he said:

I hope the visit of Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud to Italy—the first official visit on the part of the Great Jamahiriyah leadership since the revolution—will be crowned with an agreement on compensation for the more than 250,000 Libyan families still living that were directly harmed by the Italian occupation of Libyan soil and the sowing of the latter with mines.

Morocco

Paper Reports Iranian Request for Relations

LD2511144388 Rabat MAP in English 1249 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, Nov 25 (MAP)—The Iranian Government has requested the reopening of its embassy in Rabat and an Iranian delegation would be currently visiting Rabat to undertake the necessary moves to this end, reported the Moroccan weekly "AL-USBU' AL-SAHAFI WA AL-SIYASSI" (independent) in its latest issue released today.

The weekly specified that the vice-foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates received recently in Abu Dhabi the Iranian ambassador to the UAE Mostafa Haeri-Fumani who officially requested the UAE to temporarily be in charge of Iranian interests in Morocco.

The reconcilation efforts were confirmed by the launching of rehabilitation works of the Iranian Embassy in Rabat, the weekly said.

According to the weekly, Morocco responded favourably to the Iranian move by dispatching the former Moroccan consul in Tripoli, Libya, to Iran to supervise the reopening of Morocco's embassy in Tehran.

The weekly also noted that the activities of the "Polisario" (the gang of mercenaries fighting Morocco for control over the Western Sahara) have been muted these past times and Iranian dailies no longer reproduce the gang's aggressions against Morocco.

Foreign Minister Denies Report

LD2511175988 Rabat MAP in French 1530 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, Nov 25 (MAP)—The Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation today denied reports about a possible reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and Iran.

"This report is completely without foundation," according to the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The reestablishment of diplomatic relations had been announced by a Moroccan weekly "AL-USBU' AL-SAHAFI WA AL-SIYASSI" and also by Radio France International.

'Authorized Sources' Deny Ties

LD2611121988 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Rabat, 26 Nov (MAP)—Authorized sources at the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation have denied the broadcast by a foreign radio station regarding the resumption of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Iran.

The same sources emphasized that this news is groundless.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Condemns 'Arafat Visa Ban

LD2811110388 Khartoum SUNA in English 0920 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 28th November—Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Abu Salih has described the U.S. Government decision on denying an entry visa to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat as a "flagrant assault against the international community's rights." It is rejected by Sudan, the U.S. decision, and will be so at any time since the Palestinian leader is now representing a state that is recognized by one-third of the world countries, he affirmed.

"If the U.S. Administration insists to go on with this decision, another place at which 'Arafat can address the UN should be immediately considered," Abu Salih said.

60 Injured in Khartoum Clashes; Marches Banned

EA2311162188 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1005 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov (SUNA)—The commissioner of the capital [words indistinct] on the incidents which took place in the capital during the Sudan peace march, organized by the National Islamic Front [NIF] yesterday, to express support for the Armed Forces, condemnation of Garang's movement, and rejection of the peace agreement concluded recently between the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] and Garang's movement.

The commissioner said the DUP and the NIF had both applied for permission to hold marches, the former for next Saturday [26 November] in support of the Armed Forces and the peace initiative, and the latter yesterday, in support of the Armed Forces and condemnation of Garang.

He clarified that the Security Committee had studied the applications and decided to reject them. However, when the Sudan Peace March came out yesterday, the committee decided that it should be followed by the police to ensure that it proceeded in a civilized manner.

The committee did this in emulation of the precedent set when the DUP leader was received on his return from Addis Ababa following the signing of the peace agreement. The peace march was to proceed [word indistinct] and then disperse.

The commissioner went on to say that (?groups) of southerners confronted the march while it was moving. A shot was heard, which led to the scattering of [words indistinct].

The southern groups persisted in their confrontation with the march. A number of pedestrians and citizens' vehicles were stoned, resulting in the injury of 60 persons. Three policemen and two civilians were hospitalized while one member of the security forces is in serious condition.

AL-'USBU today reported that the commissioner of the capital had stated that the commission's security committee had decided to ban rallies and marches in the capital in implementation of a decision by the Council of Ministers, and observance of the state of emergency and out of concern for the lives and property of the citizens.

Al-Mahdi Cuts Short Dafur Tour Over Strike Call

EA2311195088 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Nov—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi returned this morning to Khartoum, having cut short his tour of Dafur, which was to have lasted for 5 days.

Mr al-Mahdi reached Al-Fashir yesterday, but returned today for a meeting with the Sudan Workers Federation concerning their demands and following their announcement of starting a general strike on 3 December.

SPLA Radio Appeals to People for Support

EA2311195288 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1120 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Hello listeners and greetings to you in the name of your revolutionary armed struggle, SPLM/SPLA. As you might have heard, in the capital Khartoum yesterday there were demonstrations incited by the anti-peace party, the National Islamic Front, better known as the Muslim Brotherhood.

They called the recently signed accord as an anti-Islamic move. They also said the accord was the business of Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and Garang and had nothing to do with the Sudanese people.

In this respect, listeners, you should note that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Al-Turabi are the only inciters of these innocent Sudanese students who denounced the recently signed addis ababa accord.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has always worked against peace, the peace the people he claims to lead need. He must be reminded that the agreement signed between the SPLA and the DUP can never be destroyed, because the people are always there, watching him play his last cards.

I call on all patriotic Sudanese people wherever they are not to let Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Al-Turabi, implement their repressive laws.

You must back the DUP and the other peace-loving political forces in the country, including SPLM/SPLA, because doing so will strengthen your position. If Al-Turabi and Al-Mahdi are given the chance, they will destroy the country once and for all.

If Al-Mahdi were a peace-loving leader, he would have come with the DUP to Addis Ababa. His failure to do so, proves he was afraid of identifying himself with that important move, because scrapping the September laws was going to be one of the prerequisites. At this juncture, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi must know that the war will not end until we achieve our goals.

SPLA Radio Reviews Peace Talks With DUP

EA2311223388 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Comptariots, SPLA combatants in the field: Greetings to you all in the name of our revolutionary armed struggle and welcome to this week's edition of your programme with the battalions.

Comrades-in-struggle, last week the people's hope for peace were raised with the signing of the Sudanese peace initiative by the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garanag de Mabior, and the DUP patron, Mawlana ["our lord"] Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and, as to be expected, the anti-peace people have been and are still working hard to obstruct the SPLM/SPLA- DUP peace initiative.

Right from the time the DUP-SPLM/SPLA dialogue was launched, the ummah and the National Islamic Front [NIF] leaders have not been feeling happy at all. Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Dr Hasan al-Turabi have always been looking for ways and means to obstruct it, but in vain.

The first attempt by the two men to downplay the DUP-SPLM/SPLA dialogue was to announce their own alleged meeting with the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, allegedly to take place in Kampala, Uganda, in the middle of last month.

Having failed in downplaying the SPLM/SPLA-DUP dialogue, the astonishing prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, announced a ban on any dialogue with the SPLA before the DUP leader could leave for Addis Ababa [for] talks with the SPLM/SPLA leader, Comrade John Garang de Mabior, the implication being that, if the talks fail, there will be no second chance.

This ban was preceded by Dr al-Turabi's advice to his brother-in-law, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, that continued meetings with the SPLA by individual political parties would lower further the sagging morale of their soldiers and he urged his in-law instead to concentrate on their common strategy, that is, to deal with the SPLA militarily.

This talk of dealing with the SPLA militarily was what made some Sudanese to point fingers of accusation at the NIF, accusing its members of attempting to assassinate the DUP leader, Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani, on 10th November 1988 as he was preparing to leave for Addis Ababa, an accusation that could not be lightly dimissed.

Although the random shooting at Al-Mirghani's residence was aimed at scaring him away from meeting the SPLA leader, ironically it has strengthened the DUP's persistence in striving for an honourable peace for all the people of Sudan through dialogue with the SPLM/SPLA.

Seeing that the SPLM/SPLA-DUP talks did not fail, as they had wished, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his brother-in-law, Dr al-Turabi, now looked for other ways to try to jeopardize the peace process.

Just a day after the signing of the peace intiative by the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP leader, the anti-peace forces within the government Army in Wau attempted to silence the voice of peace by shooting at the plane that was carrying Lieutenant-General (Retired) 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, who has not only given his personal blessing to the peace intiative but that of his soldiers, who are actually facing the horrors of the war.

The aim of those terrorists was to kill the defence minister and blame his death on the SPLA. Fortunately, although the plane was slightly hit, it did not crash and the defence minister and the accompanying delegation managed to land safely.

All the same, the prime minister, who was eagerly waiting for any unfortunate situation to happen, jumped to blame the SPLA for the incident and accused it of lack of seriousness for peace, an accusation which is totally unfounded. It is to be noted that the movement has always been on record in encouraging dialogue with various peace-loving forces in the country and abroad, but it has always been the prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, who has been mounting road blocks across SPLA's peace initiatives.

The latest move by the NIF to obstruct the present peace initiative by organising public demonstrations is the most unfortunate one, which deserves condemnation of every peace-loving Sudanese. This move by the NIF is an obvious attempt to try to divide the Sudanese people on religious and ethnic lines. The forces of peace, unity, and prosperity for all should not give way to these prophets of doom.

The November 16th agreement between the DUP and the SPLM/SPLA, if implemented, is the only format that provides the Sudan with a way out of its current social, political and economic problems.

As one political analyst put it, and I quote: While Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has been reduced to issuing war cries and the NIF is now widely seen as having more interest in pushing Islamic laws on the reluctant country than in the national welfare, only the DUP in the government ranks had the courage and the foresight to put aside partisan interests and respond to the countrywide aspirations for peace, unquote.

We therefore urge the DUP and the other peace-loving forces in the country not to be deterred from their quest for peace. Do not give up the good thing.

Comrades-in-struggle: Before I leave the microphone, I would like to make some few comments as regards the 16th November peace initiative signed in Addis Ababa between the SPLM/SPLA and the DUP, which is likely to be misunderstood as a peace agreement and ceasefire.

No. Do not allow your fighting spirit to drop because of the word agreement. The recent agreement signed in Addis Ababa is not like the 1972 Addis Ababa peace agreement between the Anya Nya and the government in Khartoum.

The present document now in front of the government of the day in Khartoum, and indeed in front of every Sudanese national, is entitled the Sudanese peace initiative, not the Sudanese peace agreement. I repeat. It is the Sudanese peace initiative that is before us now, not the Sudanese peace agreement. [passage omitted]

As you have just heard, there are prerequisites to be met before cease-fire and the national constitutional conference could be reached. These include the freezing of the September 1983 Islamic laws, the abrogation of the defence pacts concluded between Sudan and other countries, and the lifting of the state of emergency.

If these three prerequisites are agreed upon by the government and the parliament in Khartoum. It is from here, when the two sides, the SPLM/SPLA and the government in Khartoum, will sit down and agree on a cease-fire.

Otherwise, right now there is no cease-fire. It is important to note that this interpretation of the Sudan peace initiative of 16th November 1988 is not exclusively that of the SPLA.

The other signatory to the initiative, namely, the DUP, holds precisely the same view of the initiative. In the aftermath of the recent Wau plane incident, none other than Mawlana Muhammad 'Uthman al-Sayyid 'Ali Mirghani himself aserted that a cease-fire was not yet in place.

He meant that despite the accusations—unfounded of course—that SPLA was responsible for the attack on the plane of the minister of defence, it should not be forgotten that there is no cease-fire.

So, until cease-fire is reached between the SPLM/SPLA and the government in Khartoum, until cease-fire then, until then, hawum yastamirr ["mortars will continue"]. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

U.S. Stand on 'Arafat Visa 'Weakens' UN Role

JN2811124888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Manama, 28 Nov (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain has expressed surprise and astonishment at the U.S. refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat a visa to enter the United States to participate in the general discussions on the Palestine question to take place at the UN General Assembly on 1 December.

Commenting on the U.S. decision today, a responsible source at the Bahraini Foreign Ministry said that this U.S. stand is considered a violation of the agreement between the host country and the United Nations. This stand also, the source added, weakens the role of the international organization in tackling the issues of peace and security in the world.

The source added that, as the State of Baharain expresses deep regret over this unrealistic and illogical decison, particularly in the wake of the positive and constructive resolutions issued by the PNC in Algiers—the resolutions calling for establishing a just and lasting peace in the region—it hopes that the U.S. Administration will reconsider its decision to avoid negative repercussions on the peace process.

Papers Criticize U.S. Refusal of 'Arafat Visa

JN2711082888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Manama, 27 Nov (WAKH)—[Passage omitted] The Bahraini newspaper AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ describes the U.S. decision to prevent PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat from going to the UN headquarters in New York as a blow to peace efforts and as a humiliation for the Arab world and for those who call for the restoration of stability in the Middle East.

The paper also says that this decision is an exposed attempt to brand the honorable strugglers with trite accusations in order to abort the Palestinian-Arab peace offensive.

In one of its commentaries today, the newspaper says that the arbitrary U.S. decision cannot be thought of as one dictated by U.S. interests or by its role as a superpower. The paper adds that this decision is not in harmony with the fact that the United States is honored by hosting the United Nations on its territory.

The paper points out that this decision is a manifestation of the U.S. Administration's humiliating submission to Zionist pressures. The newspaper warns that by adopting this stand, the United States is closing the door to peace chances in the Middle East, abandoning the peace process it has attempted to lead, and giving free rein to Zionist intransigence and extremism.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ calls on Arab states to support the call to move the UN General Assembly meetings to the UN Geneva headquarters, indicating that all Arab mediation efforts with the UN Administration to make it take a balanced stand have been met with deaf ears. It said that this matter dictates that the Arabs voice their rejection of this humiliation clearly and strongly.

In their editorials today, UAE newspapers AL-ITTIHAD and AL-BAYAN affirm that the justifications advanced by the United States as excuses to refuse to grant the PLO chairman an entry visa to allow him to address the United Nations is tantamount to an admission that U.S. policy is a hostage to the hostile Zionist policy which rejects all just and peaceful solutions.

The newspaper AL-ITTIHAD says that the U.S. response to the PNC resolutions was the adoption of a decision violating international charters—the decision to prevent 'Arafat from entering the United States.

The paper adds: Thus, the U.S. Government is violating the headquarters agreement which prevents the U.S. Government from obstructing the arrival of UN members at its headquarters in New York. The PLO is a UN observer member. Nay, it has become the representative of a state which has won the recognition of 60 UN member states.

The newspaper asserts that the United States, which brands 'Arafat a terrorist is the one which is holding its doors wide open for Shamir, Peres, and extremist Zionists, regardless of the fact that they are the pillars of world terrorism, considering their record which is replete with the perpetration of crimes and massacres against Palestinians.

AL-BAYAN points out that the decision not to grant 'Arafat a visa means many things and that it is a sign of the current U.S. Administration's determination to go all the way in its policy which is biased toward Israel. It is also a sign of this administration's intention to embroil the next U.S. Administration and to mark it with this type of official U.S. behavior.

The paper expresses belief that this is an indication that the continuation of the U.S. political shortsightedness will lead to further U.S. political disappointments and to further crises to be experienced by other world states.

Kuwait

'Arafat Arrives With Delegation; Visits Amir

LD2611172488 Kuwait KUNA in English 1010 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 26 (KUNA)—H.H. the amir Saturday received in audience PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of visiting the country.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Khalid Ahmad al-Jasir, Deputy Chairman of the Palestine National Council (PNC) Salim Za'nun, and Director of the PLO Office in Kuwait 'Awni Battash.

Sees No Progress on Visa

LD2611165488 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1518 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 26 (KUNA)—The Palestine Organization, PLO, chairman Yasir 'Arafat stated here Saturday that there was not any positive progress in the position of the United States over the issue of granting him a visa to address the United Nations early next month.

In departure remarks to reporters at Kuwait International Airport following a (?3 day) visit, 'Arafat said that "so far there is no positive progress" in the American stance regarding the visa application. "The American position over the past [word indistinct] remained as it is," he disclosed.

'Arafat stated that if he was not granted the entry visa or a clear reply by Monday, he would call for convocation of the U.N. General Assembly outside the United States.

American officials said that rejecting the application would cause an uproar of protest at the United Nations and in the Arab world, but that granting it might encourage "Arafat to visit frequently". On his last visit to the United Nations, in 1974, he said that he came "bearing an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun."

Under the United Nations Headquarters agreement of 1947, the United States is not supposed to "impose any impediments to transit" of people invited to the United Nations on official business. But the United Nations has always reserved the right to exclude such people if they posed a "security threat."

State Department officials said that Shultz would be criticized for whatever decision he might make on a visa for 'Arafat. "It's a difficult issue, and there are down sides all the way around," said a department official.

Cabinet Regrets U.S. Visa Denial to 'Arafat

LD2711164588 Kuwait KUNA in English 1322 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 27 (KUNA)—The U.S. State Department's step denying PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat entry to the United States to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly was Sunday strongly regretted by the Kuwaiti Cabinet.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, stated following the Cabinet's regular weekly meeting, held under chairmanship of H.H. the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah, expressed regret toward such a position which would negatively reflect on peace efforts, particularly at a time the independent Palestinian state was gaining world recognition.

Al-Rahsid added that the Council was informed on the two messages exchanged by H.H. the Amir and the Amir of Bahrian Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah which included an invitation to H.H. the Amir to attend the GCC summit conference in Manama next December 19 and h.h.'s acceptance.

The council was informed on the message h.h. the amir received from PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat which included the PLO's thanks and deep appreciation for Kuwait's stable and firm stance toward the Palestinian cause and its continuing support of the Palestinian struggle.

Results of yesterday's visit by 'Arafat to the country, during which he conferred with h.h. the amir and briefed him on details of the PNC extraordinary session held recently in Algeria, was also reviewed.

Foreign Ministry Expresses 'Regret' Over Ban

LD2811102688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 28 (KUNA)—Kuwait Monday officially informed the United States of its deep regret over the American Administration's decision of not granting PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to address the United Nations General Assembly.

A press statement, issued here by the Foreign Ministry today, said the ministry summoned the U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait Anthony Nathaniel Howell, who met State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi.

The statement added that Al-'Usaymi, during his encounter with the American diplomat, expressed Kuwait's regret over the American government's decision of barring entry of 'Arafat.

Al-'Usaymi also expressed belief that this American stance contradicts the headquarters agreement signed in 1947 between the U.S., as the host country, and the United Nations.

He also said that this decision obstructs efforts to achieve peace, noting that it also does not go in harmony with the U.S. responsibilities and role in the international community to maintain world security and stability.

The statement also read that Al-'Usaymi expressed surprise that the U.S. stance comes at a time when the world is waiting to hear the Palestinian viewpoint on the positive step taken by the Palestine National Council and when more world countries are recognizing the independent Palestinian state.

Urges U.S. 'To Reconsider'

JN2811123888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 28 Nov (WAKH)—The UAE has expressed deep regret over the U.S. decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to attend the meetings of the UN General Assembly on the Palestine question and called on the United States to reconsider this decision to support the ongoing efforts to bring about just and lasting peace in the Middle East. This came in a statement to WAM by Shaykh Hamdan ibn Zayid, Foreign Ministry under secretary. Following is the text of the statement:

We received with surprise the news about the U.S. Government's refusal to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to attend the meetings of the UN General Assembly on the Palestine question.

As we express deep regret over this decision that contradicts the agreement binding the host country with clear obligations toward the UN permanent members and observers, we call on the U.S. Government to reconsider this decision to support ongoing efforts to achieve just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Oil Minister Says OPEC Agreeement Reached

LD2811115388 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1126 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Vienna, 28 Nov KUNA—Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-'Adhbi, today told KUNA that agreement has been reached on a production ceiling, production quotas, and the official basic price of OPEC for the first half of next year.

Italian Defense Minister Ends Visit 23 Nov

LD2311202288 Kuwait KUNA in English 1629 GMT 23 Nov 88

[By Aleh Tayel]

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 23 (KUNA)—Italian Defense Minister Valerio Zanone said here Wednesday danger to navigation in the Gulf (?area) had ceded with the Gulf war ceasefire but he declined (?to say) if hazards to commercial vessels was totally eliminated.

He said two of five Italian warships will be leaving within days to be followed shortly afterward by the other three.

Zanone made the remarks in a press conference at the Italian ambassador's residence in Abu (?Dhabi) at the end of his two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates during which he inspected his country's warships in the Gulf waters.

Italy will be the third European country to withdraw its naval presence in the Gulf after Belgium and the Netherlands.

Asked if the departure of Italian minesweepers would mean that the Gulf sea lanes were now clear of mines, Zanone indicated it would be hard to say so. In his own words: "It's difficult to (?foresee) the future before it comes."

For the past 14 months the five Italian warships, including two minesweepers, have provided escort to Italian commercial ships in the Gulf and cleared mines from major sea lanes from the (?strait) of Hormuz to Kuwait.

This correspondent, who was invited to accompany the minister in the inspection tour of the Italian Navy vessels, heard him on board the Loto ship congratulate crew and officers for a mission well done.

In an address on the Loto deck, Zanone said the decision to take part in protecting commercial shipping in the Gulf was a correct one, adding that the Italian presence in the area produced closer cooperation with other European partners.

He said he visited the United Arab Emirates to thank its leaders for (?their) cooperation with the Italian naval force and to see off the Italian Navy crews before they leave for home.

He added he discussed with UAE officials (?the groundwork) for military cooperation between [word indistinct] and Abu Dhabi involving sophisticated war technologies. He did not elaborate.

The Italian official said he invited his UAE counterpart Shaykh Mahammad ibn Rashid al-Maktum to visit Italy for more in-depth talks about the planned cooperation.

Zanone, who has earlier visited Tunisia, flew [word indistinct] after inspecting the Italian Navy vessels this afternoon.

Papers Urge Egypt's Return to Arab League

LD2611111788 Kuwait KUNA in English 0808 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Kuwait, Nov 26 (KUNA)—Two local dailies Saturday urged the return of Egypt to the Arab League, calling in this regard on the forthcoming GCC Summit in Bahrain to take a new initiative to this end.

In an editorial comment daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said that the return of Egypt to the Arab League is a strategic and national need, adding Egypt's re-assumption of its normal position is a necessity and a popular demand.

The paper underlined that no one can imagine effective Arab political action in the absence of Egypt, especially at this stage which, it called the "new Palestinian state stage".

Following restoration of normal relations between Egypt and Algeria, Egypt is expected to return to the Arab League as it is against the nature to keep it outside the League, it went on. The daily urged the Arabs to embrace Egypt, warning that time is passing by and inter-Arab differences and rifts would only spoil so much opportunities.

The Kuwait daily AL-WATAN said that if Egypt's recognition of the Palestinian state was a "shock" to the Israelis, it was a gain for the Arabs, as Egypt has no other choice than to take this stance. [sentence as received] It noted that "Egypt, historically, has been known to be the leader of the Arabs and will continue to do so."

The paper remarked that though Zionism and Imperialism have succeeded under the abnormal circumstances to make Egypt sign the Camp David peace treaty with Israel, such a step should be the yardstick for genuineness of the Egyptian people and their remarkable sacrifice for the sake of Palestine and the Arabs.

Saudi Arabia

Government Expresses 'Regret' Over U.S. Decision

LD2711230488 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2215 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia today expressed deep regret over what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said concerning the decision to refuse an entry visa to Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the executive committee of the PLO, to deliver his speech at the Headquarters of the United Nations Organization and explain the Palestinian issue before the United Nations General Assembly

This was stated by a responsible source to SPA. The source further said: This decision has caused surprise and astonishment to the Saudi Government which stands, with all backing and support, on the side of the Palestinian people and its legitimate right to liberate its homeland and return to its lands, as well as its rights to self-determination.

The source concluded by saying: While considering this decision unfair to the rights of the Palestinian people, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls on the U.S. Administration to review this decision which contradicts its principles and urges realization of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

United Arab Emirates

Military Official on 'Crotale Missiles' Deal

JN2211170188 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Nov 22 (GNA)—Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid today hailed the capability of the UAE Armed Forces.

During a meeting with senior army officers, Shaykh Khalifah revealed the UAE has recently signed a new package to purchase Crotale missiles.

"In the name of the Armed Forces, we express our confidence in the leadership of the supreme commander," Shaykh Khalifah said.

"Such a confidence is illustrated in the duty of the Armed Forces and their determination to further enhance their capabilities to protect the homeland and support the Arab and Moslem nations."

He said the UAE was doing its utmost to achieve peace and stability in "this vital region."

"Our country also has laid its relations with other states on the basis of respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of the others," he said.

"But at the same time, it has realised that it is necessary to build its forces and defences because development and prosperity could not be preserved without peace and security."

Shaykh Khalifah praised the standard of the UAE Air Forces during the recent air exercises in Kuwait by the Gulf Cooperation Council states (GCC).

"Participating in GCC manouvres reflects the close cooperation between the UAE and its brothers in the GCC," he said.

He said such cooperation would help strengthen the GCC, adding the GCC military strategy has made large strides "thanks to the support by the GCC leaders."

Defense Minister Leaves for Riyadh GCC Meetings

JN2211174788 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 22 Nov 88

[Text] Dubayy, Nov 22 (GNA)—UAE Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid al-Makhtum left today for Riyadh to attend the meeting of the defence ministers of the cooperation council of the Arab Gulf states (GCC).

He is accompanied by a high-ranking military delegation including Armed Forces Chief of Staff Major General Muhammad Sa'id al-Badi, commander of the Air Forces and Air Defence Brigadier Shaykh Muhammad ibn Zayid, head of Dubayy Civil Aviation Department Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sa'id al-Makhtum, Assistant Under-Secretary of Defense Ministry Colonel Muhammad 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Ali and senior Army officiers.

Yemen Arab Republic

'Intransigent' U.S. Stand on Visa Denounced

JN2811070588 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In a statement to SABA', Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee, has said that the YAR denounces the negative stand adopted by the U.S. Administration with regard to granting Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, an entry visa to deliver the Palestinian people's speech at the UN General Assembly.

He said that this is a violation of the provisions of the agreement between the United States and the U.S. Government on whose basis the city of New York houses the UN headquarters.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister noted that this intransigent stand comes at a time when world countries recognize the proclamation of a Palestinian state.

This international recognition emphasizes the Palestinian state's legitimacy and the Palestinian people's right to express their word before the entire world from this international rostrum established to achieve security, peace, freedom, and independence for all peoples.

Justice Minister Writes Reply Letter to President
JN2711151688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1425 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—The special judicial board of inquiry has asked that 'Udayy Saddam Husayn be released on personal recognizance until he is put on trial, in pursuance of Article 109 of the penal code. The board also decided to refer him to the criminal court for trial according to Article 10-Qaf 'Ayn. The board said that with this, its mission was concluded as of yesterday, 26 Novemeber 1988.

This came in a letter sent today to President Saddam Husayn by Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali. Following is the text of the letter:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

To the man who has triumphed in the arena of justice as he did in the battlefield; the preeminent man of justice, President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

From Akram 'Abd al-Qadir, minister of justice.

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

I have learned that 'Udayy is still in detention on the orders of Your Excellency despite a decision by the special board of inquiry on 26 November that he be released on personal recognizance.

I would like to inform you that the board of inquiry formed by our decision dated 21 November 1988 began its proceedings since then according to law, right, and justice. Members of the panel took pains to see justice—which they have held sacred throughout their judicial careers—done, especially since it has been nurtured under the leadership of Saddam Husayn.

The board worked day and night hearing testimonies of over 20 witnesses, including relatives of the victim who were and were not at the scene of the incident. Testimony of the doctors who attended the victim was also taken. The board heard their opinions based on the autopsy and the laboratory test of the blood sugar level. Also, the scene of the incident and other spots were inspected first hand.

An inspection of buildings in the proximity was also carried out and the probability investigated of their occupants being hit by the deceased's random and heavy shooting despite the fact that they house senior officials and that a rest house is in the range of the fire. The board made an exhaustive examination looking at every minor detail and, having met all the requirements of legal investigation, the board decided on 26 November 1988:

First, to release the accused from detention on personal recognizance pending his standing trial under Article 109 of the penal code.

Second, to refer the accused for trial by the special criminal court under Article 10-Qaf 'Ayn.

As is known, as an investigation body, the board of inquiry does not contradict available evidence for the purpose of conviction, but deliberates it for the purpose of reference only. In other words, it is not up to it to find the accused guilty or otherwise.

Inasmuch as the chief prosecutor has fulfilled the functions of the prosecution in this case and kept himself informed of the proceedings, on 26 November 1988 he requested permission of the justice minister for legal proceedings to be brought to a definitive halt under Article No 199 of the penal code law. The justice minister granted the request in the following decision:

Mr Chief Prosecutor: We agree to your request. I do not think there is a stronger case for invoking Article 199 of the penal code law than in this one, given its circumstances and requirements of the supreme interests of the state according to statutes as spelled out in the explanatory note of the penal code in Article 199.

[Signed] Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir

[Dated] 26 November 1988

According to this decision, the chief prosecutor asked the court of cassation to stop legal proceedings for the reasons mentioned therein and because of the decision of the justice minister. In its letter No 1/1/549 dated 26 November 1988, the court of cassation decided to bring the papers of investigation for due study and examination before making a decision on stopping legal proceedings in the defendant's case.

The papers of investigation were sent today in accordance with the ministry's letter No 1/13/758 dated 27 November 1988. The ministry is awaiting the decision of the court of cassation. If it decides to stop legal proceedings completely according to Paragraph C of Article 199 of the penal code, this decision will have the same effect as that of a verdict of aquittance, as per Article 200, Chapter 2 of the penal code.

If it turns down the request, the accused will be put on trial by the criminal court, which will make the verdict that it finds appropriate after the trial.

These are the legal measures taken against 'Udayy until today. They are just and legal measures that authorize me, Mr President, to ask Your Excellency to release the accused, 'Udayy, as there is not any legal reason for him to remain in custody after the board of inquiry decided on 26 November 1988 to release him.

The board's decision is a binding judicial decision in pursuance of Article 109, Chapter A of the penal code, which states as follows: A. If the arrested is accused of perpetrating a crime punishable by more than 3 years'

imprisonment, a temporary imprisonment, or a life sentence, the judge may order remanding him in custody for a period no longer than 15 days each time, or decide to release him on bail or without bail if the judge contends that such release will not lead to the escape of the accused and will not harm the course of investigation.

I believe, Mr President—indeed, it is my duty to say—that his retainment in custody constitutes a legal violation, and that the same thing applies to stripping him of his jobs before a final decision on his case is made and before applying the measures provided for in the Law No 69 of 1936 on the discipline of government employees.

He was deprived of all rights and guarantees enjoyed by every government employee in accordance with the aforementioned law. Why should 'Udayy remain in custody for 38 days, apart from the days of his treatment in the hospital, in connection with a charge within Article 410-Qaf 'Ayn, while court files include many cases in which held suspects of murder were lawfully released according to Article 405-Qaf 'Ayn?

Was not I right, Mr President, when I said in my previous letter to you that "I am afraid that you may commit an outrage against your own son as a result of your deep sense of justice and your firm determination to establish justice among people" and when I said that "I have known many cases in which judges did an injustice to themselves, their families, and properties as a result of their delicate sense of justice and because they feared that their justness might be doubted"?

I beg your pardon, Mr President, for these daring questions. My excuse is that I know you are so patient and wise as to understand this. I hope that your justice will cover 'Udayy like other citizens, by responding to the appeals coming out of the depths of the people and the various righteous men of the world and, above all, to draw the most noble and honorable picture of justice and the rule of law in the Iraq of Saddam Husayn. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Akram 'Abd al-Qadir 'Ali, minister of justice

[Dated] 27 November 1988

Saddam Sees Kamil Hasan Family

JN2711193688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has affirmed that the sons, grandsons, and the people are dear ones for those who appreciate responsibility in its moral and principled framework before any other consideration and not for those who do not bear full responsibility.

During his reception of the family of the late Kamil Hanna and a delegation representing the residents of the Governorate of Dahuk, his excellency added: What we have achieved for our people is that we have reached a certain state, which I believe no other people in the world has reached.

Therefore, we are duty-bound to thank Almighty God for the victories He granted to this great people to appear in this way. His excellency also said: If you have only one or two problems, I have three: Kamil, 'Udayy, and the moral responsibility to apply the law.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Ahmad Husayn, head of the presidential office; the president's secretary; and Hani Wuhayyib, the president's press and information secretary.

President Pardons Political Detainees, Others

JN2811100688 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has affirmed that—after what took place and after the overwhelming majority of Iranian people realized that their rulers were wrong—you must rest assured that your country, Iraq, and that your people in Iraq will be capable of confronting conspiracies, from whichever side they may come, far better than they did in the past.

Upon receiving the members of the Arab Lawyers Union permanent bureau and awarding them the victory sash, his excellency added: We must search for bridges to connect us to one another instead of seeking estrangement where there will be no bridges between the shores.

Any force we have in the Arab nation, whether it is a country or persons, cannot be an enlightened force if it does not interact with its brothers in a high level fraternal spirit.

President Saddam Husayn added: I announce before you that all those who were convicted or wanted by justice for political reasons have been granted a general amnesty, whether they are inside or outside Iraq, with the exception of the agents who worked as agents and spies for Iran and the aggressor Iranian Army.

His excellency added: Let us work to expand the basis of democratic representation by allowing new parties, other than those that make up the national front, to play their role. This means that we will permit the formation of new parties, other than those already existing, and have them play a role in society. He added: Pluralism was adopted after deep thought as part of our party's trend toward accuracy.

The meeting was attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Culture and Information minister; Ahmad Husayn, head of the president's office; the president's secretary; and the president's press and information secretary.

President Addresses 3d Arab Youth Seminar
JN2611201288 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at reception for participants in the third Arab youth seminar in Baghdad; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Welcome to my brother youths, Arab youths who have come from various parts of the greater Arab homeland, and maybe from outside the Arab homeland, to their country, Iraq, and to their city, Baghdad. I welcome them among their Iraqi brothers and youths.

My brothers, I greet you, not as your host according to traditional greetings, but because you have goals that transcend geographic borders. From a geographic viewpoint, we are closer to each other in Baghdad. Perhaps, some of you might have inside yourselves and in your hearts feelings about Baghdad that are deeper than those of some Iraqis—those who disavowed the principles of right, justice, Arabism, and valor—even if these Iraqis are very few.

I am fully aware that Baghdad is in your consciences, not because of the contemporary situation, but because of what Baghdad signifies regarding the glorious past. Baghdad would not have this significant and glorious past had it not won your persistence, sacrifices, work, and devotion as Arabs.

My brother, representing the Palestinian youths, has spoken about our people's struggle in the occupied territories. As usual, from this place, we reiterate our greetings to the strugglers in the occupied territories. [applause].

Reiterating and repeating our words—when we say repeating our words, we mean words that are a pledge and a commitment, not mere words—we say that, God willing, we will be on the side of our brothers in the occupied territories. We are with them conscientiously and practically, wherever they may be [applause].

My brother, the representative of Palestinian youths, the beginning of the true victory over the unjust and tyrant forces is not marked by fighting them with sophisticated means and resources, but by resorting to primitiveness, particularly on the human level.

They confront us with destructive weapons and we confront them with stones. They rely on armies—the sophisticated structure of armies, secret organs, and all that modern technology provides—and we rely on simple organization. They search for henchmen in complicated and dark corridors and we go to the simple people. Resorting to—or, let us say, beginning with—stones is the beginning of the fall of the occupiers in our land and is also a beginning of serious steps toward liberation, which begins in the minds and souls. Rites and rituals always deepen faith.

Even prophets, messengers, and holy books adopt certain rites for every religion to deepen such faith, and the prophets and messengers also depend on teachings that turn basically into rites and practices to deepen faith. Stones are a weapon for our kinfolk in the occupied territories.

They cannot be matched by any other weapons save advanced ones. It is a sound beginning to confront the enemy. The other notion in this issue is that exercising resistance with stones will lead to frustration because the resistance is collective and includes the entire people.

The Israeli soldier or civilian will be deeply frustrated when he sees that this brave resistance, which uses simple things such as stones, unifies the people in the slogans being raised through the use of these stones. Such a frustration may not be caused by regular armies using weapons against them. But using weapons by regular armies will be more effective in favor of the slogans raised by the Palestinian people. However, the sound beginning has come from stones aimed at the center of tyranny.

From long-term calculations, we can conclude that the occupation will end because our people managed to fight the occupiers with stones over 1 year. You know that we do not make hasty judgments. Our judgments often come from conclusions based on an overall view of matters.

The Zionist occupation of Palestine has ended from the ideological, political, and psychological viewpoint. Only some practical steps and arrangments are to be added to our people's capability inside the occupied territories to achieve the goal.

The Arabs should extend serious support to our people's uprising in the occupied territories. Speaking for Iraq, we do not say this because there is an actual cease-fire between us and Iran. However, the termination of the war has not yet been endorsed in terms of legal calculations and international law.

We say this because we interact with the uprising while we are under the most difficult circumstances, just as our kinfolk and Palestinian fighter brothers interacted with the war on the eastern flank while they experienced the most difficult circumstances.

Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told us that the Palestinian fighters during the Beirut siege were asking about the eastern front and the position of the Iraqi Army in its battles against the Iranian enemy. The connection was in their minds and consciences.

They linked any outcome on the eastern flank of the Arab homeland to their situation inside Beirut and to the future situation in Palestine, God willing. This is a deep and real awareness. We have to say that no force in the Arab homeland, however strong, including the Iraqi force in which you as Arabs take pride, is good unless it is wise. Their consequences may be temporary and applicable to certain cases and so before long peter out. For force to be meaningful it must be powerful, and to qualify as such it must address life's everyday concerns—not just building the military.

All of the people must be involved, and they must form its backbone. Rather than be confined to the military, the process must involve the entire community. Your military and Armed Forces, dear brothers, are the fruition of 20 years and the product of principles that have one or way or another been put into practice.

However, we are far from complacent and we still have a long way to go. The day when we will be able to say that we have reached the end of the road will not come. If this should happen, we would be going downhill into the abyss. Lofty principles should always be in the forefront of our thinking and should propel us to further progress. Meeting with senior and lower level Arab brothers, we have gained the impression that your brethren in Iraq are doing well and making decent progress.

Our youth have acquitted themselves as live ammunition trained upon the enemies, defending Iraq and the Arab nation's security, values, and principles.

From this forum, we send our warmest greetings to every household and struggler in occupied Palestine. We also applaud the establishment of the Palestinian state. To quote the brother represenative of the youths of Palestine, the Palestinian state is a step down a long road.

The Palestinian people will have in their state complete freedom. This marks a fresh start that holds promise for Arab unity. Palestinian factions have now taken the lead from the Palestinians in the occupied land who have rallied together, putting up heroic resistance and raising the same slogans.

Although Arab support for the proclaimed Palestinian state is a matter of course, we are duty-bound, as God has ordered, to thank brothers who give real backing to any just Arab cause. We therefore have easy consciences as far as the Arab support extended to the declared Palestinian state.

We especially value President Mubarak's stand, since the Egyptian leader has been bequeathed a burdensome legacy with special connections which you know. Notwithstandingly, President Mubarak rallied to his Arab affiliation and principles and decided to back and recognize the Palestinian state.

We would also express special appreciation for my brother His Majesty King Husayn. Why? Because you know of the existing close link between the state of Jordan and the state of Palestine. You also know that this close link has created a special circumstance—or, let me say, special complications in the political, psychological, and security fields—in the present—we hope not in the future.

In spite of this, he supported the realistic aspect in dealing with pan-Arab issues and recognized the state of Palestine. We hope that, as Arabs, we can resolve our issues in a spirit that supports justice and realism.

As for the war, I do not want to burden you with the military and political details, but let me say that we are interested in establishing real peace between us and Iran—peace in the full sense of the word; that is, they are totally free in their country and land, and the Arabs, including Iraq, are free in their country, land, and choices.

The Arabs will not accept anything else. We will be happier than Iranian officials when real peace between us and Iran is established, because peace was our slogan since the 1st day of the war. Peace was never one of their slogans throughout 8 years of war.

Even so, we do not want to search through and bring back the past, but we deal with the present according to its data. We encourage them to make real moves toward peace. There is a difference between encouragement and pampering.

We do not pamper anyone at the expense of our national and pan-Arab interests. However, we must always encourage the path of peace, because the path of peace will greatly benefit the Iraqis, the Arabs, and the Iranians.

Some of my brothers have said that Arabs have not given what they should have given. This may not be in the sense that I have just said, but in another sense. Whether every Arab gave what he should have given and whether he was able to give more than he gave is a question we do not discuss.

The question is left to the Arabs themselves and it is left to history. However, we hoped that no one who holds an Arab nationality would side with the foreign expansionist aggressors. Anyway, this happened.

In order to reveal facts, I say to my brothers, the representatives of Arab youths, that some Arabs have supported us in the political and information fields from the first days of the war. Some Arabs have given us financial support since the first months of the war.

This financial support came in different forms—as generous donations, superficial loans, and as loans. Some Arabs have supported us with weapons, which were a gift

to the Iraqi Armed Forces years after the war, as I recall. Some have said good words. I believe that the good people of them wished they could have taken better stands or given more.

Anyway, brothers, in the circumstance in which the Arab nation is living, we must improve what is good and add to it. We must not equally criticize those who could have given more but did not, and those who betrayed the principles and the cause by siding with Iran.

This is because mixing the cards will only benefit the enemies. Searching for points of agreement in order to build strong bridges for the Arab relation is better than searching for points of difference to separate us for good. I believe this is the duty of all—whether youths, political leaders, intellectuals, information officials, or others.

However, I think that in their conscience and mind, the youths were from the first days true to themselves. When I say they have been true to themselves, I mean that they must be in the trenches where your people in Iraq are fighting in defense of the land, the holy places, and the principles in which all of you believe because they are the Arab nation's principles.

As for the request or the petition that my brother from the Egyptian youths has submitted and that was signed by all my brothers and read by my brother the representative of the Jordanian youths, I say that I had hoped that you had asked me for something I own.

Because I do not own the thing you have asked me, let us leave it to the judiciary. We have referred the man to trial. The Iraqi judiciary has a long-standing history of fair treatment. So, let us leave it to the judiciary. From the very first moment it occurred, this issue is no longer something I own and has gotten out of my hands.

Had you asked for a house I own, I would have given it to you. [applause] If the issue deals with an Arab who has been arrested or imprisoned, I can exercise my constitutional prerogatives. However, when the issue deals with this topic in particular, it would be better for you—as Arab youths and according to principles in which you believe and which you champion—to leave this issue to the judiciary. [applause]

When we review all the civilizations, nations, and countries, we can become aware of these civilizations only if we carry out excavations for their heritage and antiquities. Most of the time, the civilization and prestigious history of these countries is manifested in its old buildings.

You find the palace of this man in this or that place, and through this, you can become acquainted with the science, mathematics, engineering, and astronomy practiced by this or that country. From this we can pinpoint the civilization and progress this or that country has reached. Let us us take ancient Egypt.

We can become acquainted with its history through its historical landmarks, foremost being the pyramids. All of you know the pyramids. When we come to the civilization of Babylon, we go to the city of Babylon and see the hanging gardens.

If we go to the city of Al-Hadar in northern Iraq, we see how it was built. All of you are proud of the Arabs' history, particularly of the early Islamic era, including those of you who are not Muslims who are in this hall or outside it.

All Arabs are proud of the history of the early Islamic era. Why are they proud of this era in spite of the fact that there is not a palace to denote the prestigious state of the Islamic state at the time?

This is of great significance in Arab history. Of greatest significance in Arab history is the story of the orthodox caliphs. The most important issues that the Arab citizen speaks about are two issues: The loftiness that is based on pride and right—of course, loftiness, valor, and other characteristics—and justice.

My brothers, when we say justice, we do not mean only implementation of the law, but we mean the just law, the just implementation of the law, and the administration of the law to members of the small family of the official as well as to other citizens.

There is no test that an official can be put to and on which we can say that he has passed the test unless he administers justice and law to his closest relative in the same spirit that this justice is administered to others according to the characteristics of the small and big families, which are the society and the direct family of the man as an ordinary human being.

I have pardoned several people who were sentenced to death. Usually, you commute a death sentence with 20 or 15 years. However, I pardon him completely without commuting the sentence. This is because I believe that if there is hope that this convict will reconsider himself. Let us give him hope in full so that he can exercise his human duties in full.

However, if we give him hope in stages, the way he reconsiders himself will be fragmented. Consequently, he will not realize why he was sentenced to death.

According to the Constitution, the president of the Republic has some powers, and as long as Saddam Husayn has the capacity to exercise his responsibilities in the state, he sometimes exercises such responsibility. We pardon someone who received a death sentence and take him out from the execution cell directly to the street, particularly concerning issues connected with politics.

I mean those issues of the convicts who have stands that are against the regime, including coup attempts. I do not consider this charge the greatest sin, because there is a greater crime—espionage—which I do not pardon. Espionage is the greatest sin because it means that the human being has disavowed all human values.

However, I understand the noble significance of your request and petition. I understand them as a man, an Arab, an Iraqi, and as one of you. I understand them and they have deep appreciation inside me and in my conscience. I thank you. [applause]

I also thank you, my brothers, for your attendance, even if you are in your country. You have suffered from traveling long distances and come to your country with a stand. I know the meaning of coming to Baghdad. However, I thank my brothers who have expressed their emotions and fraternal rational stands.

All I say is that we hope that God the Almighty will enable us to have the good opinion of these noble, deep, and rational meanings, and these true, noble emotions. I also thank you for the gift, and I understand its significance, especially since it includes a saying in which I believe.

Before I heard this saying, I was about to tell you that you should have given me a pen with it in order to be completed. This is because the shield and the sword by themselves cannot be comprehensive in life without having the pen with them. [applause] May God bless you.

My brothers, you remember the reply to a speech by one of the participants who said that the Arabs did not support Iraq, that some of them observed silence, and that some of them expressed verbal support. I recorded the forms of aid that was extended to us.

I did not mention the names of the Arab states and leaders who extended aid to us. Although I do not have the permission of my brothers about whom I will now speak, I say that there is another aid of a special kind—I mean support by an army that has fought with us.

However, I believe that they will not be upset when I mention this fact, because this is out of honesty to record historic facts as they are. I mean that an Arab country—although this country does not have a direct geographic border with us—throughout the years of war, used to send a brigade of fighters every 2 months.

The number of the brigade personnel ranged from 300 to 400 fighters. They used to come a long distance by plane. They had their positions among the Iraqi Army [words indistinct] I can say that the aid that was extended to us from our Arab brothers was of various forms, including informational, political, arms, and financial support.

A fraternal Arab country dispatched part of its army, which has fought with us throughout the years of war. For all of them we express the thanks of the Iraqi people and the thanks of sincere Arabs everywhere. [applause] Our greetings to our brother Arab kings and presidents and to Arab youths everywhere.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 26 Nov

JN2611164488 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1618 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, here this evening. They discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena and the large-scale Arab and international support for the declaration of the independent Palestinian state.

The meeting was attended by RCC member Sa'dun Shakir, the Foreign Ministry under secretary, 'Arafat's information adviser Bassam Abu Sharif, and the PLO representative in Baghdad.

Cancels Visit, Protests Ban

JN2711121588 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1155 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—INA has learned that Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has decided to cancel his scheduled visit to New York to participate in the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings in protest against the U.S. stand in refusing to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to participate in and deliver a speech at the UNGA meetings.

Spokesman Condemns 'Shameful' Decision on 'Arafat

JN2711131588 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1200 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has condemned the U.S. Administration's decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to enter the U.S. territory to participate in the meetings of the current session of the UN General Assembly [UNGA].

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that this shameful decision is a serious violation of the commitments that should have been honored by the United States according to the headquarters agreement concluded with the United Nations.

The spokesman added that this decision represents a dangerous individualistic trend that contravenes the democratic practices governing the works of the United Nations which are to be administered according to the rules and regulations of its charter.

The spokesman said that this decision is a humiliation to the whole UN membership and added that it also goes against the conduct that should have been demonstrated by a permanent UN Security Council member state which shoulders a special responsibility toward the preservation of world peace and security as stipulated in the UN Charter.

The spokesman said that the justifications advanced by the U.S. authorities are categorically rejected, as they are absurd and unacceptable to common sense and logic. The spokesman also affirmed that this decision of the U.S. Administration goes against the general international tendency which has welcomed the recent PNC resolutions which are based on international legitimacy and which are also characterized by a sense of responsibility and seriousness.

He said that a very large number of states blessed and recognized, or welcomed the Palestinian state proclamation as well as the positive content of the political statement which has affirmed the commitment of the Palestinian people and theirs sole legitimate representative, the PLO, to the international legitimacy and also to the rules of international behavior.

Concluding his statement, the spokesman said: This decision is another manifestation of the blind bias being displayed by the United States toward Israel and its policy which is based on the pursuit of aggression, on the consecration of occupation, and on undermining the international legitimacy as regards the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian Arab people and as regards the requirements of security and stability in the region.

Reportage on POW Exchanges With Iran

51 POW's Arrive From Iran

JN2611122588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Fifty-one Iraqi POW's from the sick and disabled have shouted together: Long live Iraq, long live Iraq. The POW's kissed the soil of the homeland as they descended from the plane at noon today. They shouted slogans wishing President Saddam Husayn long life and gave victory signs expressing joy for returning to the homeland after achieving a splendid victory.

A special reception was held at Saddam International Airport for the returning POW's who were transported on board a special plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC]. The higher committee in charge of the reception prepared all treatment and care requirements for the returning POW's.

With the arrival of only this number, Iran has violated the agreement concluded in Vienna between Iraq, Iran, and the ICRC. The Iranian side reduced the number of sick and wounded Iraqi POW's from 151 to 51.

The Iranian authorities claimed that a number of the POW's that was part of the exchange agreement is no longer sick despite the fact that the medical certificates which describe their condition affirm that they suffer from chronic illnesses. The Iranian authorities also claimed that there is another number of POW's whose condition has not yet been determined.

Iraq is expected to ask the ICRC to present official documents showing that Iranian justifications are baseless.

INA learned that Iraq will hand the ICRC 18 Iranian POW's from the sick and disabled instead of 41 POW's in implementation of the principle of reciprocity.

18 Iranian POW's Leave Baghdad

JN2611123288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 Nov (INA)—Eighteen sick and disabled Iranian POW's, released by Iraq, left Baghdad at noon today. They represent the second batch exchanged with the sick and wounded Iraqi POW's in implementation of the agreement signed by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], Iraq, and Iran.

The Iranian POW's were transported on board the plane chartered by the ICRC. This is the same plane that arrived here at noon today with 51 Iraqi POW's.

The higher committee in charge of exchanging the POW's presented to the Iranian POW's copies of the Holy Koran as gifts out of Iraq's belief in the principles of peace, love, and fraternity.

52 More POW's Arrive

JN2711113088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA)—Fifty-two Iraqi sick and wounded POW's have arrived from Tehran on board a plane chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

With the arrival of this number of Iraqi POW's, Iran has violated for the third time the agreement reached in Geneva between Iraq, Iran, and the ICRC, as the Iranian side reduced the number of the Iraqi POW's that should have been repatriated from 115 to 52.

In a related development, 19 Iranian POW's, the third batch of the sick and wounded POW's whose exchange has been scheduled by Iraq and Iran, left Baghdad today.

The committee in charge of supervising the exchange operation presented the Iranian POW's with copies of the Holy Koran as gifts.

Likud-Alignment Agreement Draft Formulated

TA2611195988 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] A drafted proposal for a Likud-Alignment agreement, which is currently in the process of formulation, outlines a broad-based government headed by Yitzhaq Shamir. This was reported by our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran. The guidelines of the proposed government would not include a prime minister rotation or any mention of an international conference.

The following is the proposed distribution of major portfolios: Shim'on Peres—finance minister, Yitzhaq Rabin—defense minister, Moshe Arens—foreign minister, Moshe Nisim—justice minister, and David Levi—deputy prime minister and construction and housing minister. Yitzhaq Moda'i will be in charge of an expanded economics ministry.

According to this proposal, the government will also include ministers from Tehiya, Tzomet, National Religious Party, and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

Our correspondent reports that Likud ministers will meet after the Cabinet session tomorrow to discuss these proposals. Our correspondent adds that only a few of the senior Alignment officials have received details of the draft. Further discussions and explanations are expected during the Cabinet session tomorrow.

Likud To Continue Contacts With Alignment

TA2811085488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpt] The following is the decision made by the Likud ministers this morning: The Likud will continue contacts toward the establishment of a broad-based government with the Alignment and will simultaneously continue negotiations with the other parties. Our correspondent Natan Gutman is at the Prime Minister's Office with the details:

We have just received the official announcement by the prime minister's media adviser. He says that the Likud ministers who convened at the Prime Minister's Office this morning decided, at the prime minister's recommendation, to speedily and thoroughly look into the possibility of forming a government with the Alignment. At the end of two meetings held yesterday and this morning, the prime minister concluded that there are no far-reaching disagreements between us [the Likud and Alignment].

Everybody is confident that we should set up a Likud-led government with which we will run state matters to the best of our ability; nevertheless, the prime minister added, because we care not only for party interests but also take into consideration the entire situation and the good of the nation, a broad-based government is preferable.

The prime minister emphasized that if the Alignment does not want to participate in the government, the Likud will then form a narrow-based Likud-led government, with the participation of the religious and right-wing parties. [passage omitted]

Peres: Right-Wing Government Means 'Hard Times'

TA2811115288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres today predicted hard times ahead for Israel if a government of the Likud with the right wing and religious parties is formed. He told the delegation from the President's Conference of U.S. Jewry such a government would lead Israel to international isolation, with more spending on the arms race and more resources wasted on the suppression of the riots in the territories.

Peres said he would not join a Shamir coalition unless it was committed to electoral reform. If the government's guidelines blocked the way to progress toward peace, Peres said, Labor would also not join.

Degel Hatora Announces Joining of Opposition

TA2711195888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The Degel Hatora Party today announced its intention to go into opposition. According to senior Degel Hatora sources, the decision is the result of the party's ideological proximity to the stands of the Alignment and its concern over the negative image the ultraorthodox community has acquired during the coalition negotiations and the struggle over the Law of Return amendment.

U.S. Decision Against Visa for 'Arafat Viewed

Shamir: U.S. Stand Unchanged

TA2711094188 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 27 Nov 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Ilan Bakhar, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz decided yesterday not to permit PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to enter the United States, contending that he is "a danger to national security." In a statement issued yesterday in Washington, it was stated that 'Arafat is aware of, approves, and supports terrorist activity by the PLO against American civilians.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that the decision is a sign that the United States has not changed its position on the PLO. The Prime Minister's Office said that the decision was especially important since many countries were waiting to see what the United States would decide.

We hope that other countries, especially in Europe, will follow the U.S. lead, said Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser. [passage omitted]

Peres Expresses 'Satisfaction'

TA2611211988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The United States has denied Yasir 'Arafat's request for an entry visa into the United States, which was to enable him to address the UN Assembly in New York. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has dispatched a message to his counterpart, Secretary of State George Shultz, expressing his satisfaction with the decision not to allow Yasir 'Arafat to address the General Assembly.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami notes that the Foreign Ministry had undertaken vigorous action to convince the administration that 'Arafat's entry into the United States must not be allowed because his organization has been involved in terrorist activities.

Cabinet Secretary Comments

TA2711195088 Jerusalem Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Interview with Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein by Shlomo Ganor outside the Prime Minister's Office after the Cabinet meeting, in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles—videorecorded]

[Text] [Rubinstein] We congratulate the United States for this decision. It was the correct decision in every aspect: political, legal, and primarily moral. The PLO's record and its history of terror is nothing new. The presence of Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] in Algiers symbolizes the cynicism characteristic of the PLO's approach to the matter. This man is personally responsible for numerous assassinations.

In this particular instance of relations with the United States, no one in the PLO will disclaim responsibility for the Achille Lauro incident and the murder of Klinghoffer, and much more evidence is available. The facts speak for themselves. Look at the cynicism with which they seemingly condemn terrorism on the one hand, and confirm the so-called Cairo agreement, or Cairo resolutions condoning terror, on the other. This duplicity cannot escape attention. Therefore, the U.S. decision conforms both its conceptions and its interests with our own, and we thank them for that.

[Ganor] Can it be assumed that Yasir 'Arafat will not address the next General Assembly?

[Rubinstein] According to the U.S. decision, he will be unable to enter the United States.

[Ganor] Will this mean that Israel's efforts were successful?

[Rubinstein] I do not think the U.S. decision is due solely to Israel's efforts. Naturally, Israel worked in that direction by the means of various messengers, but the decision is not related only to Israel. The United States as a state has a deep-seated respect for international law and for its nationals, including ambassadors, citizens, and others, for whose death the PLO is responsible.

In these matters, they are deeply committed to moral codes. The decision was the result of complex considerations rather than a mere response to an Israeli demand. It was a purely American decision of which, in this case, Israel is highly appreciative.

Visa Decision 'Slap in the Face'

JN2711161488 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1439 GMT 27 Nov 88

["Observation" by 'Ezra Shirazi]

[Text] Dear listeners, the U.S. Administration's refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to New York to address the UN General Assembly—this official U.S. decision undoubtedly constitutes a strong slap in the face of Yasir 'Arafat and his organization before the whole world.

What makes this slap in the face of 'Arafat and his aides stronger is that it comes following 'Arafat's declaration in Algiers of his independent state. It also comes at a time when 'Arafat began to brag about and behave as if he had become president of an established state, and not just a state on paper.

Without doubt, this U.S. decision has more than one meaning and indication. Perhaps the most important meaning is the failure of 'Arafat and his aides and their recent resolutions in Algiers to convince the U.S. Government, press, and public opinion of their credibility. They have also failed to remove doubts on their true intentions toward peace. Moreover, they have failed to remove the stigma of terrorism from their organization.

In its statement last night, the U.S. State Department actually explained that 'Arafat's request for an entry visa to New York was rejected because the U.S. Government has tangible proof of the participation of PLO elements in acts of terrorism against U.S. and other nationals and that Yasir 'Arafat, in his capacity as PLO chairman, knew of and supported such terrorist acts, and that he is therefore a partner in them.

The U.S. statement pointed out that the recent indication of 'Arafat's connection with terrorism is 'Arafat's appearance during the PNC sessions in Algiers beside terrorist Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], who is wanted by Italian justice on the charge of killing U.S.

national Leon Klinghoffer and the actual participation in perpetrating and carrying out the terrorist operation against the ship "Achille Lauro".

Here, we must recall that 'Arafat and his aides had given a clear and strong impression during and after the PNC session in Algiers that all that they were interested in is flirting with the United States and winning its blessings. This has made clear that they are not sincerely concerned about reaching a realistic solution for the Palestine question as much as they are concerned about flirting with the United States and establishing official channels of contact with the U.S. Administration.

In light of this fact, the U.S. State Department decision proves the failure of the 'Arafatist attempts to flirt with the U.S. Administration. It is a failure that is accompanied by a strong slap in the face and by closing the door in the face of 'Arafat and his aides.

Foreign Ministry's Tamir Visits Mozambique, Zaire
TA2511061388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Avraham Tamir, director general of the Foreign Ministry, left on a tour of African countries last night. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Tamir will visit Mozambique in a bid to promote relations and examine the possibility of opening embassies in Maputo and Tel Aviv. Israel has granted $1 million in aid to the government of Mozambique, and Israeli agricultural experts are operating there. Tamir will also visit Zaire.

Tamir in Moscow To 'Examine' Consular Team's Work
TA2711141488 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, arrived in Moscow today. Having completed a tour of Europe, Tamir left for Moscow where he will visit the Israeli consular delegation.

Sources in the director general's office have said that Tamir has reached the conclusion that it is necessary to examine the consular team's working procedures and conditions.

No political meetings are scheduled for him. He will leave Moscow after a 36-hour visit.

Foreign Ministry 'Amazed' at Tamir's Moscow Visit
TA2711201788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, and ministry senior officials were amazed to learn today that Avraham Tamir, Foreign Ministry director general, is currently in Moscow. Ministry sources have expressed astonishment at the director general's trip, which was made without the minister's knowledge and without any prior political coordination.

The Prime Minister's Office also had no knowledge of the director general's trip to the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD on Soviet Jews Emigrating via Cyprus
JN2611145888 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 24 Nov 88 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned that the Soviet Union has agreed to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel through Cyprus following an agreement signed recently among the three countries and which is being implemented in full secrecy.

Very well-informed sources in Nicosia have told AL-ITTIHAD that, according to this agreement, groups of Soviet Jews are now being flown by the Soviet airline, Aeroflot, to Larnaca Airport on three flights per week. These sources added that an Israeli team receives the immigrants in Nicosia to review their documents and issue them with Israeli travel documents before transporting them to Tel Aviv.

Industrial Cooperation Pact Signed With India
TA2811090988 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 88 p 7

[Report by business correspondent Judy Maltz]

[Text] An agreement to promote industrial cooperation and the exchange of information was signed at the end of last week in India by the Manufacturers Associations of Israel and India.

The agreement was signed at the end of a tour of India and the Far East by a delegation sponsored by the Manufacturers Association. The delegation, which returned on Friday, was the first group of Israeli industrialists ever to visit India in an official capacity. Wijai Kalantree, the president of India's Manufacturers Association, signed the agreement on behalf of his country.

The accord calls for the promotion of joint ventures, investments and trade between the industrial enterprises of the two countries as well as the establishment of a central body of information to alert businessmen to opportunities for partnerships.

Dov Tamir, who headed the delegation and signed the accord, described the agreement as a "breakthrough" for Israeli industry, saying it would pave the way for similar agreements with other economic and commercial organizations in India.

India is particularly interested in purchasing from Israel agricultural equipment, food-processing technology and solar energy systems, he said.

"There are many industries that can be developed in India on the basis of Israeli know-how," he said.

Tamir noted that until four months ago, there were tight restrictions in India on the import of Israeli goods. Since then, many restrictions have been lifted, which should also help boost trade between the two countries.

"Of course, it is still difficult for Israeli businessmen to obtain visas into India," he said, "but we hope to overcome this problem."

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

2d Palestinian Dies 23 Nov

TA2411142688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Marwan Kinari, 27, of Ya'bud near Janin, died yesterday at Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem of head injuries sustained on November 7. Kinari was hospitalized with a concussion and a broken arm and leg, which his family said were caused when soldiers beat him. The IDF said it had no report of the incident, but was checking the family's account. [passage omitted]

In clashes yesterday in the West Bank, a 5-year-old boy, Mahmud 'Inayat, was wounded in the leg at the village of Maythalun, north of Nabulus, according to Palestinian reports. Palestinians said the boy was shot during an altercation between soldiers and members of the boy's family. The IDF had no report of the incident.

According to the Palestinian accounts, a clash occurred in Maythalun when soldiers passed through the village on the way to Siris, where they demolished two illegally built homes. During the clash, troops tried to take a man out of his home and beat him with rifle-butts, injuring him in the head and other parts of his body. When the man's grandmother protested against the beating, the soldiers opened fire in her direction, wounding the boy.

In clashes in the old city of Nabulus two teenagers were wounded, and a third shot and wounded at the neighbouring 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' refugee camp, according to military and hospital reports.

A 17-year-old from Tulkarm was treated for a broken hand after being beaten by troops, according to reports from the Al-Ittihad Hospital.

At Burin, south of Nabulus, villagers, reported that settlers from neighbouring Yizhar cut and uprooted 250 olive trees with a bulldozer, in retaliation for the cutting of a water-pipe to the settlement earlier this week. Settlers stopped and searched Arab cars in the area on Tuesday night, villagers said.

The secretary of Yizhar confirmed last night that the water pipe to the community was cut, but he added that he had no knowledge of trees being uprooted near Burin.

The IDF denied Palestinian reports that a boy from Qabatiyah hospitalized in Nabulus with burns had been wounded by a flaming object thrown at him by troops. Military sources said the boy had been burned in his home, and no troops had been in the area when he was wounded.

In the Gaza Strip, 12-year-old Majid al-Bulbusi from Al-Nusayrat camp was seriously wounded in the stomach and taken to Al-Ahali hospital. The family said he was shot by soldiers.

The IDF spokesman reported clashes only in Jabalyah where a resident was slightly wounded as demonstrators were dispersed. Arab sources said four people were wounded.

Residents of the Al-Am'ari refugee camp, which is under curfew, reported several incidents of vandalism this week during night-raids on homes by soldiers enforcing the curfew. Military sources said no complaints had been received by the IDF.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 24 November, in a report by YEDI'OT AHARONOT staff on page two adds: "Three youths, aged 14, 15, and 16, from the Bedouin township of Horbat Kasif were convicted by the Beersheba District Court of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles. They received 2 months in prison and 7 months suspended sentence."]

Settlers Protest Road Attacks

TA2411191388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Israeli vehicle today in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt. In another development, the Government Employment Service reported that 40,000 workers from the territories are employed in Israel illegally. Shlomo Berger reports:

The firebomb attack took place this afternoon in the Al-Tur neighborhood of East Jerusalem. The vehicle, which belongs to the Tadiran [electronics] company, caught fire in the rear. The driver escaped injury and put out the flames. Also in East Jerusalem, an Egged bus was stoned on the main shopping street, Salah al-Din. The windshield was shattered, but no one was hurt.

In the territories, an Israeli car was stoned outside the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp south of Bethlehem. Again, there were no injuries.

A group of Jewish settlers from Judaea and Samaria demonstrated this evening outside the Prime Minister's Office. They were protesting over the security situation in their areas. They said there had been so many attacks on the roads that settlers always drive under the fear of being hit by a stone or a Molotov cocktail. They describe the situation as intolerable, and called on Prime Minister Shamir to immediately put down the uprising.

In another development, the Government Employment Service reports that some 40,000 workers from the territories are employed in Israel without permits. About 12,000 of these had been located, and complaints against their employers had been presented to the courts. The employment service says the matter is extremely serious as these workers do not pay income tax, and their employers do not set aside money for such funds as social security and pension.

5 Injured in Territories 25 Nov

TA2511202688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Three Samaria residents were wounded by IDF fire today, two in Nabulus and one in the Tulkarm refugee camp. Arab sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that a wounded person from the village of Dayr al-Ghusun near Tulkarm was brought to Nabulus today. It is possible, however, that he was wounded yesterday.

Arab sources have said that two people were injured in the Gaza Strip today.

'Many' Clashes in Gaza Strip

TA2611131988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Two Gaza Strip residents were wounded in today's clashes with troops. One of them, a 13-year-old from the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp, sustained a serious head injury. The other injured man is a resident of the Jabalyah refugee camp. Arab sources reported two more casualties.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that clashes between rioters and security forces occurred in many other places in the Gaza Strip.

Wounded Gazan Dies in Hospital

TA2611193688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The Sheba Medical Center has reported the death of Gaza Strip resident Farid Muhammad Mir'ali, who was wounded by plastic bullets this afternoon during riots in the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp.

Vehicles Stoned in West Bank

TA2711181088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Three cars were stoned in Qalqilyah this afternoon shattering their windows. One of the passengers, 'Imanu'el resident Shim'on Biton, was injured in the chest by a stone. He received medical treatment in a local clinic. Military sources have told our correspondent Moti Amir that an IDF force summoned to the site began a search for the stone throwers.

A No 25 Egged bus driving along Shu'fat Road north of Jerusalem, was stoned this afternoon. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that one of its windows was shattered and a frightened passenger fainted.

A metal bar was placed this afternoon across railroad tracks about 2 km north of Bayt Safafa. The bar was discovered and removed in time.

The Hadera magistrate's court has ordered the detention for 10 days of a 16-year-old youth from the Samaria village of Al-Yamun. The youth is suspected of having thrown a Molotov cocktail at night at an Israeli car near the entrance to the settlement Me 'Ammi. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the suspect was detained early this morning.

Anti-Israeli slogans were discovered on the walls of local schools in the West Galilee village of Kaukab.

The Lod military court sentenced Nayil Khalil, age 21, to 20 years in prison. He was convicted of membership in the terrorist squad which had murdered Yig'al Shahaf. Although Khalil did not take part in the murder, he was an active member of the squad, which was also convicted of inflicting knife injuries on the Ohayon brothers.

In another case, the Lod military court gave a prison sentence of 2 and ½ years to 21-year-old Ilyas Hanna Spiru from Jerusalem. He was convicted of throwing a Molotov cocktail at the U.S. consul's house in Jerusalem at the beginning of this year.

IDF Wounds 5 in Gaza Strip

TA2711203688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Five Gaza Strip residents were wounded by IDF fire in today's riots. Arab sources claim the number is much higher. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two of the wounded are from the village of 'Abasan, one from Bayt Hanun, one from Jabalyah, and one from Dayr al-Balah.

Curfews in Gaza, W. Bank

TA2811070188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Early this morning the IDF imposed a curfew on many Gaza Strip locations, including the Jabalyah, Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, and Al-Shati' refugee camps and residential neighborhoods in Rafah and Gaza. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Gaza seems to be responding to the call for a general strike today issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising.

Our correspondent adds that a curfew was also imposed this morning on Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, two large towns in Judaea and Samaria. The decision to impose the curfew follows the numerous incidents of provocations and attacks against Israeli vehicles recently.

24 Wounded in 27 Nov Incidents

TA2811090688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Nov 88 p 10

[Report by Joshua Brilliant and Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] A total of 24 people were shot and wounded yesterday—the bulk of them in the Gaza Strip—following a relative lull in the strip since the Palestine National Council met in Algiers.

Local Arab sources said the clashes reflected the anger and let-down following the U.S. refusal to grant Yasir 'Arafat a visa which would have enabled him to address the UN. Everybody, even people who usually don't discuss politics, was talking about the American move. A local reporter said the feeling was that the U.S. had "stabbed 'Arafat in the back."

A general strike has been called today in the territories in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners, and to demand their immediate release. The strike was called in leaflet 29 of the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising."

According to IDF figures, 5,656 Palestinian prisoners are currently in detention, including 1,590 in administrative detention, and 377 who have already been tried and sentenced.

Yesterday's clashes erupted all over the Gaza Strip from Bayt Hanun just south of the Erez crossing, to Rafah on the Egyptian border.

Three people were injured in morning clashes in Bayt Hanun and six others were shot before dusk, a Palestinian reporter said. The IDF spokesman confirmed only one injury there.

According to the reporter, five people were injured in Khan Yunus, four in Jabalyah, three in Dayr al-Balah and one in Rafah. The injured included Jafa Abu Sisi whose brother, Hatim, was killed on December 9, the first day of the intifada.

The IDF confirmed only that three people were hit by plastic bullets.

In the West Bank, a 24-year-old man from 'Arranah was wounded in the shoulder when soldiers opened fire at a car in Janin. Military sources said the car ran an IDF roadblock and the driver ignored calls to halt.

A 12-year-old boy was wounded at Idnah, near Hebron, during a clash with troops who entered the village to make arrests and order residents to erase nationalist slogans. Palestinians reported similar raids in other villages.

Curfews were in force on the Al-Am'ari refugee camp and Kafr-Malik, both near Ramallah, on Artas south of Bethlehem, and on Sarrah near Nabulus, where Palestinians said all vehicles were impounded as a lien against tax payments.

A reporter for AL-SHA'B newspaper, Na'im Tubasi, was being held at the Hebron jail after being arrested on Friday, his colleagues said. Tubasi had been released in August from six months of administrative detention.

The IDF spokesman released figures on casualties during the uprising according to which 240 Palestinians have been killed and 3,503 wounded.

Six Israeli civilians and two soldiers have been killed, while 722 soldiers and 399 civilians have been wounded in the violence, according to the military statistics. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Jeremy Kaplan on page two, Tel Aviv THE NATION in English on 28 November adds: "Two Palestinians were shot yesterday by the army-appointed mayor of Janin, Arab sources reported. The men attacked the mayor, Shihah Sanuri, because of his alleged cooperation with Israeli authorities, the sources said. The two Arabs were not seriously injured."]

IDF Force Kills 'Terrorist' in South Lebanon

TA2711122388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] A terrorist was killed last night in southern Lebanon by IDF gunfire. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a terrorist squad on its way to carry out an attack in the security zone clashed with an IDF force in the western sector. IDF soldiers opened fire. To repeat, one terrorist was killed. The rest of the squad managed to escape to the north. A flak jacket loaded with ammunition and sabotage material was found on the terrorist's body.

W. Bank Settlers Declare 'Free Judaea' Movement

TA2811060688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The Judaea and Samaria settlements have set up an operations headquarters to deal with the issue of security on the roads. This was decided yesterday at a large rally held in Ginnot Shomron and attended by representatives from most Judaea and Samaria settlements. The speakers at the rally said that there has been a deterioration in security on the roads and suggested that they hold protest vigils and conduct patrols in the territories. They hold the prime minister and defense minister responsible for the situation on the roads and decided, as they told our correspondent, to adopt measures that had not been taken so far.

Several members of the Kakh and Moledet Movements, as well as residents from the Hebron area, have recently set up a body called the Council of Free Judaea. An investigation conducted by our correspondent Moti Amir indicates that a week ago, members of this body issued a declaration, similar to the proclamation of independence of the State of Israel, in which they attacked the Camp David accords. This declaration was issued in reaction to the proclamation of the Palestinian state in Algiers.

The Council of Free Judaea declaration was transmitted to journalists and Knesset members at the time, but nobody took it seriously and it was not publicized. The declaration states that if the State of Israel betrays its destiny of redeeming the land, the council members will declare the establishment of the State of Free Judaea. Yesterday Alignment Knesset Member Avraham Burg asked the attorney general and the defense minister to check whether the council's work does not challenge the sovereignty of the state and the authority of the IDF.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 28 November adds that the spokesman of the Moledet Movement wishes to emphasize that his movement "has nothing to do with the Council of Free Judaea."]

Yasir 'Arafat Arrives for Talks With King Husayn

JN2611213288 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman tonight on a visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials.

Upon arrival, 'Arafat made a statement to a PETRA reporter in which he praised His Majesty King Husayn's sincere stands and his firm brotherly stance with his Palestinian brothers, whether during their PNC meetings, before them, or, God willing, after them.

'Arafat said: His Majesty King Husayn was fully informed about the details of the discussion made by the Palestinian leadership during our meeting in Al-'Aqabah, when I came in the company of His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

'Arafat added: I also informed his majesty about the plans that we were supposed to present to the PNC in Algiers. With God's help, we have made these positive, constructive resolutions. I must address thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Husayn for this honorable stance.

'Arafat pointed out that he will hold talks with His Majesty King Husayn on the common steps, whether these steps were Palestinian-Jordanian or made within the overall Arab conditions generally.

Yasir 'Arafat was received at Queen Alia International Airport by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, senior civil and military officials, a number of PLO Executive Committee members, and senior Palestinian officials.

Begins Discussions 27 Nov

JN2711165888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and the delegation accompanying him at Al-Nadwah Palace today. His Majesty King Husayn praised the positive results of the PNC meetings in Algiers. He expressed disappointment with the official decision not to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to deliver Palestine's speech before the UN General Assembly.

His Majesty King Husayn said that this decision is aimed at suffocating the positive, moderate Palestinian voice—the voice of peace and justice, to which all sides in our region aspire.

His Majesty King Husayn and 'Arafat discussed the possibilities of moves in the international arena to support the positive Palestinian stand reflected by recent PNC resolutions. They agreed to coordinate stands and efforts to support the Palestine question and its people's legitimate struggle.

The talks were interrupted by a luncheon hosted by His Majesty King Husayn in honor of Yasir 'Arafat.

Attending the talks and the luncheon on the Jordanian side were the prime minister, the Royal Court chief, the chief chamberlain, the court minister, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, and the foreign minister.

Attending on the Palestinian side were members of the accompanying delegation.

His Majesty King Husayn visited 'Arafat at his place of residence in Amman today. He was accompanied by the Royal Court chief.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN2711203888 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Amman this evening. The prime minister and other officials were at the airport to see off the PLO chief.

In a statement to Jordan television, 'Arafat described his talks with his majesty as brotherly, positive, and constructive. The PLO chief added that he had discussed with his majesty joint action to counter the developments concerning the Palestinian issue at the Arab and international levels.

'Arafat went on to describe his talks with the prime minister, saying they discussed the Palestinian problem and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Foreign Minister, PLO Official on 'Arafat Visit

JN2311152888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Amman, 23 Nov (INA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri met here today with Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, representative of the PLO Executive Committee in Amman.

Palestinian sources informed the INA correspondent here that the talks held during the meeting tackled the results of the PNC meetings as well as the special arrangements pertaining to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Amman visit, which will take place in the beginning of next week to hold talks with King Husayn of Jordan on issues pertaining to the

political moves regarding the Palestine question on the Arab and international levels and bilateral relations within the framework of the Palestinian-Jordanian coordination and consultations.

Brig Gen al-Yahya met earlier today with Jordanian Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah. They discussed bilateral informational coordination during the forthcoming phase which has been initiated by the issuance of the PNC's historic resolutions.

King Husayn, Mubarak Agree on Moving UN Debate

JN2711125888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn held a telephone contact with His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning. He exchanged views with his excellency on steps that should be taken in light of the U.S. secretary of state's decision not to grant PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to deliver Palestine's speech before the UN General Assembly [UNGA].

The two leaders agreed on the need to exert a collective Arab effort to transfer the UNGA's debate on the Palestine question from the UN headquarters in New York to the UN's European headquarters in Geneva.

In implementation of his majesty's instructions, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has held telephone contacts with foreign ministers of the fraternal Arab states. They agreed that all Arab states will collectively contact the UN member states in order to transfer the meeting devoted to discussing the Palestine question topic listed on the UNGA's agenda in its current session to the UN's European headquarters in Geneva in order to enable Yasir 'Arafat to address the international community and present the Palestinian stand on this topic as well as the positive results and the historic resolutions issued by the PNC's recent meetings.

On the other hand, Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri described the U.S. secretary of state's decision not to grant Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to address the United Nations as an unjustifiable and disappointing decision.

In a statement to a Jordanian news agency correspondent, he added that according to the agreement concluded between the United States and the United Nations 'Arafat has the full right to address the United Nations. Regrettably, the motives behind this decision are known. The pressure by the Zionist lobby's groups in Washington is strongly linked to this decision, he said.

It is regrettable indeed that this U.S. decision came shortly after the historic resolutions recently adopted by the PNC in Algiers. All the world's states have said these resolutions are constructive, positive, and moderate. We used to believe that this moderation, which was a U.S. demand, would receive U.S. welcome, he added.

Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman Arrives on Visit

JN2311123888 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Amman—Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim arrived in Amman on a visit to Jordan today. He was accorded an official welcome at Amman Airport, where His Highness Crown Prince Hasan headed those who received him.

He was also received by senior civil and military officials and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman. The Jordanian and Iraqi national anthems were played and Prince Hasan and 'Izzat Ibrahim reviewed the guard of honor.

'Izzat Ibrahim is accompanied by a delegation comprising the minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, deputy trade minister, and a number of Iraqi officials.

Visits With King Husayn

JN2311170088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 23 Nov 88

[Text] Amman, 23 Nov (INA)—King Husayn of Jordan received here today Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, who is currently visiting Jordan.

The meeting was attended on the Jordanian side by Crown Prince Hasan; Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i; Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Staff Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd; and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khayyat, minister of Islamic affairs, holy places, and religious trusts.

On the Iraqi side, the meeting was attended by 'Abdallah Fadil, awqaf and religious affairs minister; Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, foreign ministry under secretary; and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan.

During the meeting, RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim conveyed the greetings of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal as well as his excellency the president's best wishes of continued progress and prosperity to the fraternal Jordanian people.

They also reviewed the developed bilateral relations and ways to bolster them in all spheres. They exchanged views on issues of common interest to the Arab nation to help achieve its unity, vindicate its pride, and confron the challenges obstructing its march.

His Majesty King Husayn hosted a lunch banquet in honor of RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim. Members of the Iraqi and Jordanian delegations attended the banquet.

Higgins Reportedly Moved Twice in Last 10 Days
NC2511185988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The Bayrut News Agency says that reports from the southern suburb indicate that U.S. hostage Colonel William Higgins was transferred 10 days ago from the south to the southern suburb, and more precisely to Hizballah's position in Hayy Madi. The news agency adds that before fighting broke out in the suburb Higgins was transferred once more and made to join other hostages.

Red Cross To Suspend Activities Over Hostage
NC2711061388 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross began to evacuate its employees from Lebanon yesterday. It announced that it intends to suspend all its activities if one of its officials, Swiss national Peter Winkler, is not released within 1 week.

Amal Accuses Iranian Embassy of Aiding Hizballah
NC2511203488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Statement issued by the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau in Beirut on 25 November]

[Text] First, the flareup initiated by Hizballah groups against the Amal Movement in the southern suburb is aimed at causing divisions among the Lebanese Shi'ites. Their attempt to transfer the flareup to West Beirut is aimed at sowing sedition among the Muslims.

Second, despite our constant desire to preserve our relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, it has been observed with extreme regret that the [Iranian Embassy's] Cultural Advisory Office in West Beirut has established an assembly point for the Hizballah command. This assembly point was used to stage battles and enable Hizballah members to take up positions on rooftops and attack innocent people.

Nevertheless, the Amal Movement did not attack the advisory office lest such a move be interpreted as an attack against the Islamic Republic. We place these facts before the Islamic Republic so that it may take the necessary measures and prevent cultural and diplomatic centers from being turned into hideouts for gunmen.

Army Command Denies Hizballah 6th Brigade Charge
NC2511142888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Statement issued by the Army Command's Guidance Directorate in Beirut on 25 November]

[Text] Some private radios have broadcast a report to the effect that the Lebanese Army's 6th Brigade is participating in the ongoing clashes in the southern suburb and is siding with one of the combatant sides.

While categorically denying this report, the Lebanese Army Command reiterates that the 6th Brigade is not assigned with any security task in the southern suburb. The Army Command urges the media to seek truth as this would serve Lebanon, the Army, and the media's credibility.

Amal Statement on Hizballah 'Wave of Killing'
NC2511155788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Bursts of machinegun fire and exploding rockets are being heard in Zuqaq al-Balat this afternoon. Contacts are under way to resolve the situation and ensure the entry of the Syrian forces into the areas of tension.

Meanwhile, the Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau has issued the following statement: The Hizballah Command had almost succeeded in transferring the sedition from the southern suburb to West Beirut, the heart of the security plan and the stronghold of the nationalist and Islamic project. We previously warned that this command will not be content with drowning the [Shi'ite] sect in a sea of blood. It would rather drown all Beirut in this sea to establish even a foothold in the political equation.

The Amal Movement's Central Information Bureau went on to say that in pursuance of the wave of killing and terrorism which the Hizballah groups began when they assassinated brother martyrs Dawud, Faqih, and Sbayti, the same groups attacked the house of Brother Dr Ayyub Humayyid, head of the movement's Executive Committee, last night. These groups believe that such crimes will make the movement and its cadres an easy prey after their attempts to disintegrate the movement utterly failed.

The statement concludes: Out of our desire to preserve the kinfolk's lives and blood, we have restrained our anger and healed our wounds in wake of the assassination of our brother leaders. However, we warn those who let themselves be seduced into harming our leaders and cadres. We also warn the commands which call themselves ayatollahs or Hojjaj ol-Eslam. They should not think they are safe in their houses, even though we fear God and the day we will meet with him.

Fighting Spreads to West Beirut Areas
NC2511180688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1735 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The southern suburb fighting between Amal and Hizballah has spread to West Beirut for the second time in 24 hours. Clashes erupted suddenly at 1600 today in the Zuqaq al-Balat, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, and Wadi Abu Jamil areas. The fighting was followed by the appearance of gunmen in the Phoenicia, St George, Cadmos Hotel, and Clemenceau localities. At 1845, the clashes spread to Salim Salam Bridge and Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq.

Meanwhile, the fighting intensified in 'Ayn al-Muraysah, particularly near the Vendome Hotel, where a Hizballah mosque is located. Security sources said that the clashes in these areas erupted some 7 hours after Syrian forces had deployed there.

More on Clashes in West Beirut

NC2611072788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes are now raging between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Ra's Bayrut, Al-Zaydaniyah, Zuqaq al-Balat, and Karakul al-Duruz, while the situation somewhat calmed down in Beirut's southern suburb.

Our editorial room is now on the line to report on developments: The clashes in West Beirut expanded to the Al-Zarif area a short time ago. Meanwhile, the clashes in the Al-Hamra area have intensified. According to security information, both sides are engaged in storming operations and a Hizballah headquarters near the central plaza in Al-Hamra is now coming under a wide-scale attack by Amal groups.

According to the latest information, the Syrian forces addressed a warning to the gunmen a short time ago to observe a cease-fire and withdraw from West Beirut's streets, but no Syrian action or assembly of Syrian forces has been noted to suggest the Syrian command is determined to implement its warning in the next few hours.

Meanwhile, security sources have reported that an artillery shell fell in Al-Barjawi this morning, causing only property damage.

[In its report at 0630 GMT on 26 November on the resumption of the clashes, (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon adds: "The Amal Movement has violated the cease-fire agreement in these areas [in West Beirut] after the security committee has established it and after committee members went to these areas to define places of tension in preparation for deploying units from the Syrian Army. The reports say that Amal gunmen opened fire on the security committee members. Two Hizballah representatives and a Syrian officer were injured."]

Syrians Detain Militiamen; Fadlallah on Clashes

NC2611080388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Citing a high-ranking Syrian oficial, AFP says that the Syrians have detained scores of militiamen in West Beirut and confiscated their weapons. The official, however, did not reveal the identity of the militia to which these militiamen belong.

Meanwhile, Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has stated that intelligent services stand behind the clashes and that what is happening in Beirut's southern suburb is due to an upset in the political situation among the sons from the same ranks.

Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has called on the Syrian forces to disarm the Amal Movement and Hizballah. He said that a political solution must be discussed, especially with the Iranians.

Clashes in Western Area; Quiet in Suburb

NC2611082188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] According to security reports, noticeable tension prevails in the areas of Karakul al-Duruz, Nazlat al-Bashurah, and Hayy al-Lija [in West Beirut]. The sound of intermittent bursts of gunfire and rockets is heard.

A responsible source of the Amal Movement has stated that clashes are raging in the area of Zuqaq al-Balat—precisely in the vicinity of the Arab Institute—and in the vicinity of Furn al-Shabi in the Karakul al-Duruz area. The security committee is holding intensive contacts to calm down the situation.

Guarded calm prevails in the southern suburb where the sound of intermittent gunfire is heard. Efforts continue to end the tension and restore life to normal.

Cease-Fire in Amal-Hizballah Clashes Expected

NC2611101388 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Violent clashes have continued between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in areas in Burj Abu Haydar, more precisely near the Iranian cultural center, Badran station, Tal'at al-Nuwayrah near Shatila Mosque as far as Al-Basta, and Hayy al-Lija.

Violent clashes are also raging in the Barbur area where Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri's house is located as well as one Zurayq Street.

According to security information, one person was killed and another wounded in Burj Abu Haydar at about 1100 today.

Meanwhile, Al-Zarif area is experiencing intensive sniper fire and some rocket fire. The Amal Movement has concentrated gunmen in the areas of Burj al-Murr, the Red Cross office in Spears, and 'Ayn al-Tinah.

Meanwhile, security sources in the Amal Movement have stated that Amal has taken complete control of Al-Musaytibah area.

A short while ago, it was agreed that a cease-fire would come into effect at 1200 today.

Cease-Fire Implemented; Syrians Withdraw Gunmen

NC2611104788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The clashes in West Beirut subsided at 1200 today, the time set for the implementation of the cease-fire agreement.

Sources in West Beirut have stated that the Syrian forces and the Security Committee have begun work to withdraw the gunmen from Burj Abu Haydar and Tal'at al-Nuwayrah.

Fire Opened on Violators

NC2611114388 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 NOV 88

[Excerpt] The cease-fire agreement between Amal and Hizballah that was declared at 1200 is still in force. There is almost complete calm throughout the areas of fighting in West Beirut, now that the clashes have started to abate following the cease-fire declaration. Some sporadic fire, though, can still be heard.

As of 1245, the Syrian Arab forces started to assume their role on the ground in order to effectively end the ongoing Amal-Hizballah fighting. The Syrian troops are working to withdraw the gunmen and remove an armed presence from the areas of the clashes by taking over the party offices located at the scene of the fighting and opening fire directly on whoever fails to heed the cease-fire agreement. [passage omitted]

Cease-Fire Collapses; Fighting in West Beirut

NC2611124888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Clashes between Amal and Hizballah gunmen, during which both sides attempted to advance, shifted from one area to another in West Beirut today. However, the cease-fire agreement reached as a result of the fighting collapsed at noon. Fighting continues in most parts of West Beirut, and has expanded to new areas.

Meanwhile, many people have fled the areas of the clashes for remote areas. [passage omitted]

In the meantime, Amal Movement sources have declared that Amal has taken control of the Al-Musaytibah area. The sources disclosed that Amal gunmen are surrounding an Hizballah-controlled area in Wadi Abu Jamil. The same sources added that three Amal officials, including Hasan Kilani and Samir Shuqayr, were killed in Al-Musaytibah yesterday. In addition, a person was killed and another was wounded in Burj Abu Haydar.

Although the clashes eased following the declaration of a cease-fire at approximately 1245 today, exchanges of machinegun fire are being heard especially in the areas of Burj Abu Haydar, Salim Salam Street, Tal'at al-Nuwayrah, and the Iranian Cultural Center.

In another development, Syrian occupation forces are attempting to deploy in the areas of the Al-Basta police post, Tal'at al-Nuwayrah, the Al-Kawakib movie theater, and Sidi Hasan Street.

As a result of the clashes in West Beirut, two shells fell around the Al-Barjawi-Lycee area shortly before 1230 today.

AFP: Al-Huss, Fadlallah Urge End to Fighting

NC2611135988 Paris AFP in English 1301 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, Nov 26 (AFP)—Rival Shi'ite militiamen traded anti-tank and automatic weapons fire Saturday in several densely-populated areas of central West Beirut as the death toll from five days of fighting rose to at least 22.

The latest clashes erupted in the commercial district of Al-Hamra and in Burj Abu Haydar, near the Iranian cultural centre.

The pro-Syrian Amal militia said two of its fighters were killed Saturday, while a correspondent saw the corpses of four pro-Iranian Hizballah militia lying in an alley.

Hospital sources said that at least another 10 people have been killed and around 50 injured, mostly civilians, since the inter-Shi'ite power struggle flared Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Salim al-Huss, prime minister of a Muslem-led government, whose authority is opposed by an anti-Christian administration in east Beirut, issued an appeal for calm, saying "innocent civilians" were the main victims of the fighting.

Hizballah said its representative in a "Security Committee," which groups the two militias and Syrian officers, was seriously wounded late Friday by Amal militiamen during a joint patrol through the Al-Musaytibah District. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual guide of Hizballah, called later Saturday for an "immediate halt" to what he called the "crazy" fighting.

The clashes should not be seen as a "conflict" between Iran and Syria, he said, adding that a "definitive political settlement" could only be ensured by the "establishment of balanced relations" between the two Shi'ite militias.

Shaykh Fadlallah said the Syrian Army could help "reach positive results," but stressed that a solution through dialogue must be found in Lebanon, rather than Damascus or Tehran.

"What is taking place is not a conflict between Syria and Iran, and we cannot escape the problem by saying the solution lies elsewhere," he said.

His remarks followed a statement Friday from Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, vice president of Lebanon's Shi'ite community, that only Iran could find a solution to the inter-Shi'ite power struggle.

"Iran obviously has an important role and can exert pressure on the parties involved," Shaykh Fadlallah said, adding that Syria also has a key role.

"But the problem lies betwen two local groups." he said.

Calm in West Beirut; Amal Controls 'Most' Areas
NC2611161988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The clashes which took place in some West Beirut neighborhoods and areas have completely ceased. Security reports indicate that calm prevails in West Beirut now that the Syrian Arab forces have taken up positions in the areas of the clashes. Tension has gradually eased since 1200 today, when a cease-fire between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters went into effect.

The Syrian forces fanned out in the areas of the clashes and began deploying patrols. They took over party centers, particularly in Al-Musaytibah, Burj Abu Haydar, Al-Basta, Tal'at al-Nuwayri, and on Sidi Hasan street. The Syrian command has given strict and firm orders to the Syrian troops to open fire at any gunman who does not withdraw from the streets. [passage omitted]

Amal Movement sources said that before the cease-fire went into effect the Movement was in control of most West Beirut areas, including Al-Musaytibah, Al-Qantari, and Zuqaq al-Balat. The Movement sources said that Hizballah fighters were only in control of the Iranian cultural center building and its surrounding area, as well as some other pockets in Al-Nuwayri.

They added that the Movement fighters did not return the fire directed at them from the Iranian cultural center area as the situation demanded, so as not to creae political [word indistinct] for Hizballah, as the Amal Movement sources said.

'Media Sources': 26 Killed in Fighting
NC2611170788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] While no official information is available regarding the casualties and losses left by the clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah, AFP quoted Lebanese medical sources as saying that 16 people were killed and 50 others were wounded in the clashes which began last Tuesday. However, according to media sources, 26 people were killed and 60 others were wounded.

Intermittent Amal-Hizballah Clashes 27 Nov
NC2711105588 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Intermittent clashes involving the use of various types of rockets and machineguns are taking place between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in the areas of Bi'r Hasan and the Iranian Embassy. [in the southern suburb].

Road From West Beirut to South Cut Off
NC2711130588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpts] The Shi'ite conflict between the Amal Movement and Hizballah was renewed today, and the fighting spread to new areas after a fragile calm that was repeatedly violated during the night and this morning.

Security reports said that gunmen from both sides faced each other near the Iranian Embassy in Al-Jinah area, which had not been affected by the battles till now. The reports added that the road from West Beirut to South was cut off because of the clashes. The reason for this fighting was Hizballah's attempt to bring gunmen to a building in the area. The incident developed into an exchange of machinegun and rocket fire. [passage omitted]

Amal claimed later that it had taken control of a Hizballah position near the Iranian Embassy.

While Syrian forces were trying to disengage the two sides, they came under fire from a Hizballah position near the Iranian Embassy. The Syrians opened fire on the position, entered the building from which the fire was issuing, and disarmed the gunmen.

The Syrian forces addressed an ultimatum to the gunmen at 1300 saying that they would immeidatley open fire on the side violating the cease-fire set for 1300. They also threatened to fire on gunmen in the streets. The Syrian Army was deployed this morning in B'ir al-Hasan to control the situation, but the fighting was quoted as saying that the Syrian Army has come to implement President al-Asad's instructions to prevent gunmen of parties and militias from starting armed confrontations.

The Iranian Embassy said that it has nothing to do with the incident and that embassy guards did not take part in the clashes. [passage omitted]

Hizballah-Amal Clashes Intensify in Beirut

NC2711150888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah intensifed in the southern suburb a short while ago. Tanks are being used in the fighting, and the sound of explosions is reverberating in all parts of Beirut. The clashes are currently centered in the Al-Shiyah area.

Fighting Spreads to Suburb

NC2711155988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] According to the latest security reports, fighting broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters in the Bi'r Hasan and Al-Hursh areas [in the southern suburb of Beirut] at 1630 today. The Security Committee is trying to deal with the situation.

A responsible security source in the Amal Movement informed us just before this newscast that Hizballah artillery pieces in the Hayy Madi area are being used to shell the movement's positions in the Bi'r Hasan and Al-Hursh areas. The source said that the Syrian Arab forces are making intensive efforts to end the fighting.

VOL Details Continuing Amal-Hizballah Clashes

NC2711161688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Another cease-fire agreement reached with regard to the Amal-Hizballah conflict has fallen. At approximately 1630 today, the two sides resumed fighting in the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy. Tanks, artillery, rockets, and machineguns are being used in the fighting. Similar clashes are raging at the approach to Al-Ghubayrah, which has resulted in the closure of the Airport Road from the direction of the roundabout.

There has been fierce fighting in the same area earlier when Hizballah had attempted to deploy armed men in a building near the Iranian Embassy. The Syrian forces intervened at that point, warning both sides that they would use force against anyone who violated the cease-fire agreement, which had been announced at 1300 today.

Meanwhile, Amal personnel are staging a large-scale storming campaign against Hizballah positions in Al-Nuwayrah. In an AFP analysis of the West Beirut and southern suburb battles, Hizballah is determined to fight to maintain its domination in Lebanon after this influence diminished considerably over the past 6 months.

AFP cites a source close to the Syrian Command in West Beirut as saying that the Syrian Command is convinced of the need to seek a political solution to the Amal-Hizballah dispute, which has lately constituted a significant loophole in the Syrian Syrian-sponsored peace.

In another development, grand Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has urged the Syrian forces to assume their role in a serious and firm manner and to start disarming the gunmen. He added that it is no longer acceptable under any circumstance or pretext for security to remain subject to the mood of gunmen.

Security Committee Deals With Continued Fighting

NC2711192888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The new development with regard to the issue of the Amal-Hizballah clashes is the ultimatum which the Syrian Arab forces addressed to the combatants this afternoon. The Syrians ordered all armed combatants to withdraw from all streets, warning, otherwise, that anyone caught carrying arms would be fired upon without warning.

This measure followed a security setback before noon today, when violent clashes broke out between the Amal Movement and Hizballah fighters in Bi'r al-Hasan and the vicinity of the Iranian Embassy, involving the use of all types of rockets and machineguns.

The intensity of these clashes abated as the Syrian forces dealt with the situation. However, the situation suffered another setback at approximately 1700, when clashes erupted between the two parties, which the committee is dealing with now.

At the same time, security sources have indicated that tension has returned to some of the southern suburb quarters. A Hizballah security source has accused the Amal Movement of breaching the cease-fire agreement, which was set to start at 1300, by launching an attack on the party's positions in Bi'r al-Hasan and by shelling the areas of Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, and Bi'r al-'Abd.

On the other hand, a responsible media source in the Amal Movement has held Hizballah responsible for causing a flare-up with a view to undermining the Syrian-sponsored security move and attempting to prevent the establishment of a nationalist army.

In another development, the Security Committee convened today in the presence of representatives from the Syrian observers, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah. The conferees discussed ways to pursue the steps, which were agreed upon yesterday, to remove the armed manifestations, deal with the causes of the clashes, release the detainees on both sides, and assert the Syrian forces' role.

As part of the efforts to stop the fighting between Amal and Hizballah, Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received a Hizballah delegation comprising Ibrahim al-Amin and Husayn al-Musawi, within the past few hours. The conferees discussed possible ways to end the current fighting.

In the meantime, complete calm reigns in the other parts of the capital, which had been the scene of fierce fighting over the past few days. The fighting has led to the death and injury of scores of people and caused extensive property damage.

The Syrian forces, meanwhile, are continuing to send out their patrols and to strengthen their checkpoints, thus enabling the public to leave their residences and check the damage.

Fighting in Beirut Suburb Abates; 11 Casualties

NC2711200188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The fighting, which resumed this afternoon between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in Bi'r al-Hasan, Al-Janah, the Airport Road, Al-Ghubayrah, Harat Hurayk, and Bi'r al-'Abd, abated this evening.

REUTER quoted security sources as saying that today's clashes left three people dead and eight wounded. Fighting in the past few days has left 30 people dead and at least 85 others wounded.

'Militiamen' Fire on 'Nationalist' Positions

NC2711202988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 2000 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] 'Awn's militiamen stationed in Bsus and Al-Kahhalah caused tension in the security situation at approximately 2100 this evening when they began pounding the nationalist positions in Dahr al-Wahsh, using tank, mortars, and heavy-caliber machineguns. They also are pounding the areas of 'Alayh and Duhur al-'Abbadiyah with mortars.

Meanwhile, guarded calm is prevailing between Amal and Hizballah positions in the Bi'r al-Hasan-Al-Janah area. The sound of sporadic machinegun and rocket fire is being heard, which the Security Committee is working to halt.

In the meantime, Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalah has called on the Syrian forces to carry out their role in a decisive manner and to disarm the gunmen.

In another development, Hizballah released a statement this evening affirming that the only way to resolve the problem is through dialogue, [words indistinct], and finding political solutions. The statement welcomed the Syrian initiative and appealed to all forces and Shi'ite factions to continue to exert efforts until all the causes of dispute are eliminated and understanding is reached.

VOL Cited on Amal Attack on Iranian Embassy

NC2711232888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2255 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Beirut, 27 Nov (MENA)—The Amal Movement pounded the Iranian Embassy Headquarters in Beirut with artillery and rockets tonight.

Voice of Lebanon radio said that the Embassy guards using their personal weapons tried to defend the building, while Syrian soldiers exchanged gunfire with the pro-Iranian Hizballah members close to the embassy.

Very ferocious battles continue between the two sides and have expanded to other areas in West Beirut.

The radio noted that at least three persons were killed and eight others wounded in today's battles.

VOL Reports Cease-Fire, 'State of Tension'

NC2711233388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2315 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The clashes between Amal and Hizballah have subsided after they had resumed violently in various parts of the southern suburb and West Beirut this afternoon.

Although a cease-fire agreement was reached at 1930, a state of tension continues to prevail and gunmen remain in their positions. Sniper fire is being directed intermittently at the Al-Janah Road.

Syrians Deploy in Beirut, Clash With Gunmen

NC2811063488 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Calm prevails in the southern suburb and the capital folowing the Syrian forces' deployment in the areas of tension. The Syrian forces are making painstaking efforts to stabilize the situation in the west Beirut areas of Al-Musaytibah, Al-Khandaq al-Ghamiq, Zuqaq al-Balat, al-Bastah, Burj Abu Haydar, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, Karakul al-Duruz, and Al-Qantari.

Meanwhile, other units of the Syrian forces have been deployed in the Al-Ghubayrah, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, the Airport Road, Bi'r al-Hasan, and Janah areas of the southern suburb. They have instituted foot patrols which have succeeded in preventing any shows of force.

The Syrian forces command has issued a warning that any gunmen failing to heed its orders will be fired on. Syrian units clashed with a number of gunmen in Bi'r Hasan yesterday evening, wounding two gunmen and disarming the others.

Meanwhile, political circles expect that practical measures will be implemented in the capital and its southern suburb. A ranking Syrian source has noted that the

purpose of these measures is to employ radical procedures to disarm Beirut, ensure the withdrawal of the warring sides, and remedy the situation in the suburb.

Syrians Threaten To Use Rocket Launchers

NC2811065688 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Excerpts] According to the most recent security reports, complete calm prevails in most of the West Beirut and southern suburb areas, including Bi'r Hasan and Janah, in the wake of the clashes between Amal and Hizballah fighters that broke out yesterday morning and evening. [passage omitted]

The Syrian forces have addressed a strongly-worded warning to the gunmen to withdraw from the streets. They have also set up rocket launchers, threatening to use them against any sources of fire. The Syrian forces confiscated all arms in Bi'r Hasan and deployed units in all quarters where violent clashes had taken place.

The Syrian forces command issued another warning to all fighters that they should immediately withdraw from the streets and that all violators would be fired upon. This order has been conveyed to the appropriate commands.

Meanwhile, Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has urged the Syrian forces to carry out their role firmly and to begin disarming the gunmen. The security situation should no longer be subject to the whims of this or that gunman, he said.

In another development, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, head of the Syrian observers, who made a 24-hour visit to Damascus, returned to Beirut yesterday. Brig Gen Hammud emphasized that the situation will be returned to normal regardless of the cost.

Hizballah Radio on Suburb, West Beirut Clashes

NC2811075888 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] It seems that Nabih Birri's groups are still insisting on driving more wedges among the ranks of Shi'ite Muslims and all Muslims in general. These groups are spreading sedition from one place to another, regardless of current efforts to calm the situation and end the fighting.

According to security reports, Amal groups in West Beirut and the southern suburb have violated the cease-fire. After every defeat, these groups shell residential areas with artillery and rocket launchers.

Despite full responsiveness by Hizballah members to pacification efforts, the seditious groups insist on stepping up the fighting. Following a foiled attack by these groups on the outskirts of the suburb yesterday afternoon, the security committee intervened and restored calm to the scenes of the clashes. However, Amal members caused the situation in the Janah area to escalate, firing their shells in the direction of Hizballah fighters' positions.

At 0200 today, the situation suffered a setback in Al-Shiyah, following an Amal Movement attempt to advance under cover of heavy sniper fire. At 0400 today, seditious groups threw two hand grenades at positions of the faithful in Al-Ghubayrah. However, the faithful did not return the attack.

At 0430, there were reports of clashes in the vicinity of Mar Mikh'ail church. Birri's groups in West Beirut caused the situation in Zuqaq al-Balat to flare up, and a clash ensued. According to reports, a rocket was fired in the direction of one of the brothers' residence, a building in Hawd al-Wilayah where Syrian troops are housed.

Guarded calm prevails in the other areas where Syrian troops are carrying out patrols.

As part of the arrangements to end the tension, and in response to efforts being made by the security committee, Hizballah has released all 32 Amal gunmen who had been detained. However, the Amal Movement violated the agreement, and are still holding all Hizballah detainees. Consultations designed to bring about their release have not succeeded.

VOL Updates 28 Nov Amal-Hizballah Situation

NC2811094188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GNT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A state of tension has developed between Hizballah and the Amal Movement's gunmen once again. Clashes involving the use of machineguns and rockets have been going on between the two sides in Al-Laja since 1050 today.

In the meantime, tension still prevails in a number of neighborhoods in West Beirut and the southern suburb, which was the scene of battles between Amal and Hizballah gunmen last night, despite the Syrian ultimatum. Most schools are still closed.

REUTERS notes that most gunmen have disappeared from the streets. However some gunmen are still stationed at the entrance to certain buildings in strategic locations. The Syrian troops have erected more roadblocks at the scenes of clashes to inspect cars and check identity cards.

Citing political sources, REUTERS reports that Syria will seek to arrange a meeting to reconcile Hizballah and Amal gunmen and end the fighting once and for all. REUTERS points out that the expected meeting will not be exclusive and will include other Shi'ite leadership,

such as the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council. The meeting will not deal only with reconciliation, but will cover the general political situation in Lebanon and political relations among Shi'ite.

Hizballah sources have said that a party delegation met with Syrian President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus Saturday, and received Syrian assurances that the security situation will be dealt with and the tension will end.

39 Dead, 72 Wounded in Beirut Fighting

NC2811121588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] According to official and unofficial security reports, a guarded calm prevails in all the areas which witnessed ferocious fighting last week. However, bursts of machinegun fire were heard in the Al-Laja quarter in Al-Musaytibah at 1100 today.

Sources of the Amal Movement and the joint Security Committee have indicated that a house belonging to a Hizballah member was raided as part of an operation to storm arms depots and gunmen's positions. The sources added that the Hizballah member was arrested and his arms confiscated.

The security committee held a meeting at the Syrian observers' center in the Beau Rivage Hotel at dawn today, during which an exchange of kidnapped persons took place. Hizballah handed over 32 Amal members while Amal released 10 Hizballah members.

Security sources have stated that 39 people were killed and 72 others wounded in last week's fighting.

Amal, Hizballah Exchange 42 Kidnappees

NC2811160388 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The joint Security Committee held a meeting at the headquarters of the Syrian observers team in the Beau Rivage Hotel at dawn this morning. During the meeting, Hizballah handed over 32 kidnappees to the Amal Movement, while the movement handed over 10 kidnappees.

AFP: Further on Israeli Raid Casualties

NC2511143388 Paris AFP in English 1422 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Excerpt] Sidon, Lebanon, Nov 25 (AFP)—At least 11 people were wounded, three of them children, as Israeli warplanes on Friday bombed positions held by a leftist Moslem militia near this south Lebanon port, militia sources said.

The Popular Nasirite Army (PNA) said that five of its fighters were injured, three of them seriously, as well as three civilian adults and three children. The raid was the first by the Israeli air force on a PNA position, the PNA said.

Lebanese police earlier reported that Palestinian posts had been the target. [passage omitted]

2 Reported Dead in Air Raid

NC2511172188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] In the resisting south, the Israeli air strike was targeted against the Nasirite Popular Organization's center in Al-Bramiyah northeast of Sidon today. The Israeli raid left two people martyred and nine others wounded.

Meanwhile, a military source in the Nasirite Organization issued a statement on the raid. It said that formations of Israeli fighters and helicopters raided the organization's center northeast of Sidon at 1350 today.

The center is located in a residential working class quarter. Five militiamen and 10 civilians, including 3 children, were injured. Furthermore, the center was completely destroyed and nearby buildings were seriously damaged.

The Nasirite Popular Organization, while being subjected to the Zionist attacks in Sidon and on the Kafr Falus front, reiterates that these attempts will not harm the determination of its fighters and unionist trends, and urges all forces to unify the Lebanese military potential to confront the enemies and their agents on the Kafr Falus front.

'Repeated' Flights Reported

NC2811151088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] A maximum state of alert is reported among the Palestinians living in camps near Sidon, following repeated sorties by Israeli warplanes in the south this afternoon.

Resistance Group Destroys Israeli Vehicle

NC2711142288 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] A national resistance group detonated an explosive charge on the Bayt Yahun-Haddathah road at dawn today as an Israeli enemy armored vehicle was passing. The vehicle was destroyed and its passengers were killed or wounded.

Al-Shar' 'Not Surprised' by U.S. Visa Decision

JN2811134888 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Upon the departure of Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi from Damascus airport, we asked Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' about Syria's reaction to the U.S. Administration's decision not to grant an entry visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The Syrian foreign minister said: Syria was not surprised by the U.S. decision because we are aware of the deep strategic alliance between the United States and Israel, an alliance which, as is known, was founded and entrenched during the administration of President Ronald Reagan.

Minister al-Shar' added: In a wider context, we know that U.S. society is based on violence and force. Americans generally glorify the strong and despise the weak. We, in Syria, believe that making concessions and showing a weak Arab stand before the United States will only lead to negative results detrimental to the interests of the Arab nation.

Therefore, Syria emphasizes, as it has often done, that the establishment of a strong and effective solidarity to confront these serious challenges, especially the Israeli challenge, is the firm guarantee for regaining the usurped rights and the occupied territories.

We asked Minister al-Shar' about Syria's reaction to 'Arafat's call on Syria to recognize the Palestinian state.

The foreign minister replied: We, in Syria, had thought that the PLO would ask the states which recognized the Palestinian state to affirm their support for the establishment of this state.

Therefore, Al-Shar' said, we were surprised by the uproar which was created on this particular point. How can you support something without recognizing it? On the other hand, you can recognize something without supporting it.

Observers recall that Syria had declared its support for the establishment of the Palestinian state because it is in harmony with its political line.

Reportage on Visit by Arab League's Klibi

Arrives in Damascus 26 Nov

JN2711112488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Damascus—Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Damascus yesterday evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

In a statement made to the SANA correspondent upon arrival, Klibi said: I am returning to Damascus today to continue the consultations on the Arab moves to be effected for the sake of Lebanon.

He added: It is natural to see Syria's role in these moves as a central one, considering the continuous efforts it has been exerting and the burdens it has been shouldering to help Lebanon protect its soil and play its distinguished role within its Arab community—the same objective which is being pursued by all the Arab states.

We all feel the need to show solidarity with a member state which contributed to the founding of the Arab League.

Concluding his statement, he said: I am confident I will find in this dear country, under directives from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, all the help needed to assist Lebanon to overcome its current crisis and safeguard its constitutional institutions.

Received by Al-Shar'

JN2711152488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and was informed of the results of his Arab tour. They also discussed developments in the region and the Lebanese arena.

Received by Khaddam

JN2711193088 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] At 1730 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi. Their talks dealt with various aspects of the Arab situation.

Afghanistan

USSR's Gerasimov on 'Coup Attempt' in Qandahar

LD2411163788 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Moscow November 24 TASS—A gang of the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, based in Pakistan, has been provided with toxic agents in the form of white colour tablets that can kill a human being in 48 hours. This was reported at a briefing here today by head of the Information Directorate of the USSR Foreign Ministry Gennadiy Gerasimov. He referred to the information received from competent agencies.

The bandits tested a tablet on a Soviet prisoner of war, he said. The Soviet soldier had his upper and inferior limbs paralysed a few hours after he took the tablet, and he died in 48 hours. The tablets were also tested on two Afghan officers, who also died. Rebels from the Gulbuddin Hikmatyar group intend to use tablets to kill unsuitable persons.

With the armed oposition continuing its actions against the legitimate government in Kabul, the government troops in the past few days envigorated combat actions in a number of provinces. These involve not only regular units but also tribal regiments, said Gennadiy Gerasimov. Successful combat coperations were conducted in the Qandahar Province and also in the provinces of Kabul, Balkh, and Jowzjan.

A military coup attempt was made in the Qandahar Province on the night of November 21-22, the representative of the USSR Foreign Ministry said. The rebels tried to capture the command post of the Second Army Corp. Their actions were stopped short. 30 rebels were killed, the rest either wounded or taken prisoner.

Gennadiy Gerasimov told journalists that the seventh meeting of the Transport Subcommittee of the Standing Intergovernmental Soviet-Afghan Commission for Economic Cooperation had been held in Kabul on November 14-21.

In the course of the meeting it was noted that Afghanistan's transport system, established with the assistance of the Soviet Union, enables the transportation of the whole volume of transit cargoes.

Further on 'Coup'

LD2411164788 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul November 24 TASS—As it became known here, a coup attempt was made in the city of Qandahar on the night from November 21 to 22. Some military leaders of the province, having betrayed state interests, tried to lead to the local headquarters of the armed forces a detachment of extremists, consisting of some 400 men. However, the patriotically-minded soldiers and officers, who had found about the betrayal, laid an ambush on the way of the extremists. As a result of the bloody battle, the rebels had to retreat.

Thus the heroism of the Afghan soldiers helped frustrate the plan of the irreconcilable opposition aimed at capturing the major provincial centre in southern Afghanistan.

USSR, Opposition Officials Meet in Islamabad

LD2711190188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The first meeting between USSR Embassy representatives in Pakistan and Afghan armed opposition representatives took place today in Islamabad. During the meeting they discussed the return of Soviet military personnel taken prisoner in Afghanistan by the opposition forces.

Defense Minister Reportedly Injured by Gunmen

BK2711022688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1807 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 26 (AFP)—Afghan Defence Minister Shahnawaz Tanai was injured and his driver was killed last week when gunmen ambushed his car in Kabul, Afghan resistance sources said here Saturday [26 November].

The sources quoted an eyewitness as saying that two men hid behind trees in the Darul Aman area of Kabul on November 15 and opened fire with Kalashanikov assault rifles when General Tanai's car approached.

Gen. Tanai, who is also chief of the Afghan Army, was injured and his driver was killed in the attack, the sources said.

Army Officer Denies Using Chemical Weapons

LD1811225388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Nov 88

[Text] By inflicting crushing blows on the armed extremists, supported directly by Pakistan, our Armed Forces have taught the extremists that they cannot violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

In order to divert public opinion away from the shameful defeat of the extremists in Nangarhar Province, Western media claims that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan used chemical weapons in their mopping-up operations along the Kabul-Towr Kham highway. In order to reveal the true facts in rejecting this false claim, our reporter interviewed the Army Corps commander in Nangarhar Province.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Esteemed Brigadier General Ghulam Hazrat, commander of No 1 Army Corps. Greetings. How are you? I am speaking from Kabul. Western mass media claims

that during recent combat operations carried out along the Jalalabad [as heard]-Towr Kham highway, the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan used chemical weapons against the extremists. Please explain the true facts to our listeners.

[Hazrat] Thank you. I can say to the esteemed listeners that this is not the first time these rumors, this false news about the use of chemical weapons in combat operations have been released. However, those who organized and spread these lies have never been able to prove that such weapons were indeed used.

As stated many times, the military doctrine of the Republic of Afghanistan is defensive in character, and this doctrine fully conforms with the principles embodied in the UN Charter, international accords, and the humane policy of national reconciliation. During the years of imposed war the Republic of Afghanistan has been profoundly faithful to the international accords regarding the non-use of chemical weapons.

Regarding claims about the use of chemical weapons in the relevant combat operation, it must be said that this claim is absolutely untrue. The use of these weapons was not allowed for the following reasons:

1. Chemical weapons have a mass destruction capability, and its unpleasant outcome not only affects the enemy, but all living creatures in the region. As the combat operation was carried out along a most important highway, important for the people and government from commercial, political, and military points of views, naturally the use of chemical weapons would have left behind unpleasant after effects, particularly as some of the inhabitants, despite enemy pressure, did not leave their houses.

2. We carried out speedy and effective actions during the first 2 days of the operation in accordance with the plan of operation—any use of chemical weapons would have affected our own personnel.

This operation, the formidable victories of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the defeat of the enemy were the reasons causing the Western media to embark on such (?fabrications).

We have such a strong belief in the strength of our Armed Forces, particularly their high level of combat preparedness and combat morale, that we do not see the need to use certain kinds of weapons.

The other day a number of foreign journalists, some of them attached to well-known Western international news agencies, visited the region. They will confirm that claims about the use of chemical weapons by the Army are made for the sole purpose of justifying countless losses of the extremists and Pakistani troops in this operation. No one can prove the truth of these claims. [end recording]

Security Sources Say Gulbuddin Group Using Toxins

LD2511212488 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The military section of the BIA, quoting the country's security sources, reports that the extremist group of Gulbuddin has recently been supplied with poisonous material in the form of white tablets. These tablets can have negative effects on the human being and kill a person in 48 hours.

The extremist group of Gulbuddin has experimented with the tablets on two prisoners, Afghan Army officers, who were martyred after 48 hours. The extremist group wants to make use of the tablets against those whom they do not like.

According to another report, the head of the Information Department of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs also mentioned in a press conference in Moscow the supply of the poisonous tablets to the extremist group of Gulbuddin.

He added that the extremist group of Gulbuddin has experimented with the tablets on Soviet prisoners of war. For instance, a Soviet prisoner of war lost his legs 2 hours after the experiment and 48 hours later lost his life.

Vice President on Pakistani Elections, Rebels

BK2711113688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1118 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] New Delhi, Nov 27 (AFP)—Afghan Vice-President 'Abdurrahim Hatif said Sunday he hopes arms supplies to mujahidin rebels in Afghanistan would end if Benazir Bhutto becomes Pakistan's new prime minister.

"She has given birth to a child and so cannot be on the side of the elements who kill children, women and old men indiscriminately," he told a news conference in New Delhi.

Ms Bhutto is leader of the opposition Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which won the largest bloc of seats in Pakistan's November 16 general election and has claimed the right to form a government.

Mr. Hatif also hoped that Afghan guerrillas would "become more amenable to national reconciliation" if and when a "popular government" was installed in Islamabad.

Ms Bhutto, in pre-election speeches, has promised to continue Pakistan's policy towards Afghanistan.

The Afghan leader said the Pakistani poll results proved that its people had rejected late President Mohammed Ziaul Haq's policies on Afghanistan.

"General Ziaul Haq's policy has been rejected... with the defeat of the parties which had links with him," he said, accusing the present Pakistani regime and the United States of violating the Geneva peace accords on Afghanistan.

But Mr. Hatif struck a cautious note saying: "We will wait and see who comes to power (in Islamabad) as normalisation of the situation is needed in Pakistan, Afghanistan and the region as a whole."

He repeated an Afghan Government warning that if the problem was not solved peacefully, "it would be up to the Governments of Soviet Union and Afghanistan to reconsider the whole situation." He did not elaborate.

The Geneva pacts, signed by Kabul and Islamabad in April, call for the withdrawal of 115,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan. The pullout began on May 15 and is scheduled to end by February 15 next year.

But Moscow has halted the withdrawal, accusing Pakistan of continuing arms shipments to the mujahidin, which has repudiated the accords and wants the Kabul government of President Najibullah out before any talks can be held.

"The induction of sophisticated arms (into Afghanistan) is continuing," he said.

Mr. Hatif said nearly 175,000 Afghan refugees had returned home from Iran and Pakistan, but others "still in Pakistani territory are not being allowed (by the mujahidin) to return."

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, during a state visit to India earlier this month, warned of "grave consequences" if the Geneva accords continued to be violated, but he too did not spell out what the consequences would be.

Kawiani, Delegation Depart for Damascus

LD2711105688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0418 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 26, BAKHTAR—Najmuddin Kawiani, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC) left here at the head of a (PDPA CC) delegation for Damascus today.

The Afghan delegation, which has been invited to that country by the Ba'th Arab Socialist Party, will discuss matters relating to expansion and consolidation of cooperations between the two parties.

Kawiani was seen off at the Kabul International Airport by Haydar Mas'ud Politburo member and secretary of the (PDPA CC).

Left-Wing Parties Council Holds Session

LD2011074488 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0454 GMT 20 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 19 BAKHTAR—Session of the Coordinative Council of the Left-Wing Democratic Parties Alliance of the Republic of Afghanistan was held here today president over by Mahbubullah Koshani, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Organisation of the Workers of Afghanistan.

At the outset of the session the political and military situation in the country was discussed all-sidedly and it was stressed on the ever further strengthening of the left-wing democratic forces in the country. Later on, on the basis of the agenda, matters were discussed and assessed and necessary decisions were adopted.

The Coordinative Council of the Left-Wing Democratic Parties Alliance approved a resolution on support to the peace proposals of President Najibullah which were put forth in the joint session of National Assembly. Likewise, the Coordinative Council highly assessed formation of an independent Palestine state and expressed its support in this regard.

At the end of the session in accordance with the political platform of the Left-Wing Democratic Parties Alliance of the Republic of Afghanistan, Hamidullah Gran, first secretary of the Workers Organisation of Afghanistan was appointed for four months as chairman of the sessions of the Coordinative Council.

Delegates of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), Revolutionary Organisation of the Workers of Afghanistan, Workers Organisation of Afghanistan and working group of that council took part at the session.

The resolution adopted by the Coordinative Council of the Left-Wing Democratic Parties Alliance fully supports the peace proposals of President Najibullah and regards them as another significant step towards ensurance of peace in Afghanistan.

The resolution expresses its deep concern on the sorrows of the Afghan refugees in foreign countries and asks the international communities to adopt measures for removal of the obstacles created by some countries, especially Pakistan, on the way of return home of the refugees.

The resolution adds that the council assesses positive formation of a broad-based coalition government which will be acceptable for all concerned sides and the urgent duty of such a government will be to attract all sides to talks and make every effort for ensurance of ceasefire and holding of a nation-wide peace jirgah (assembly).

The resolution say that participants of the session regard resolution of the 43rd sessions of the UN General Assembly on Afghanistan which was unanimously

approved as a fruit of the national reconciliation and result of the peaceful foreign policy of the Republic of Afghanistan and another important step for the country and all peace-loving forces.

National Front Appeals to Refugees, Opposition

LD2111093288 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 21 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 20, BAKHTAR—"The National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan as an independent socio-political organisation in the country realizing its historic mission in regard to present and future of all Afghans appeal to those brothers and sisters who live away from the country and those armed opposition commanders who fight against the popular state to join the peace process in the country", says a message of the National Front of the Republic of Afghanistan issued in line with the speech of President Najibullah which was delivered at the joint session of the National Assembly of Afghanistan.

Addressing the brothers and sisters away from the homeland the message proposes that they should take initiatives and should not let a number of ambitious persons to use them as a reserve forces for murder, plunder and destruction of the country.

The message says further: "You can return home like thousand other compatriots and take part in ensurance of peace and tranquility in the country".

The message calls upon the commanders of the armed groups inside the county to respond positively to the peace invitation and stop war and get ready for direct talks.

The message asks the said commanders: "Do you know what the residents of cities and villages think about you when they are encountered with the firing of heavy weapons?" The residents say: "If they deal with the innocent people in such a manner, what will they do with them after they obtain the power"

The message asks the armed opposition commanders inside the country to refrain from war and fratricide and use their common sense and get ready for talks. They should also take steps for compromise because it is the only way of tranquility and prosperity.

130th Note Submitted to UN Mission

LD2711110088 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Kabul, Nov. 26, BAKHTAR—A source of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan reports that the 130th notice of the Republic of Afghanistan on the flagrant violation by Pakistan of the provisions of Geneva accords was submitted today to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP.

The notice stipulates that the Pakistani authorities in violation of Geneva accords have put at the disposal of Afghan extremist groups the most modern weapons especially different kinds of explosive materials, hand grenades, anti- personnel and anti-vehicle mines.

The Pakistani authorities train the Afghan extremists in the military camps for carrying out subversive activities and how to use the lethal weapons. As a result of such acts hundreds of our countrymen were killed or wounded and hundreds of public utilities were destroyed.

The notice asked the UNGOMAP to investigate the violations and convey the findings to the Afghan authorities concerned and UN secretary general's envoy.

Clashes Between Armed Forces, Mujahidin Continue

Mujahidin Recapture 4 Districts

BK2511164088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 25 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels recaptured four districts in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar Province as fighting continued along the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway, resistance sources said Friday.

The fighting intensified Thursday when the guerrillas captured the districts of Ghazgai, Gardi Ghaus, Batsawul and Hazar Now along the highway. Kabul forces had recently flushed out rebels from these areas.

The resistance sources said 13 Afghan soldiers died and six tanks and Army vehicles were destroyed. The guerrillas put their own losses at one dead and two injured.

Rebels first captured the highway linking Jalalabad with Pakistan in early November, making rapid advances after seizing the Towr Kham checkpoint across the Khyber Pass and ransacking its offices.

Fearing a threat to Jalalabad, the regime launched a counter-offensive last week to reopen the road, which was still closed to civilian traffic.

The resistance sources in the Pakistani border city of Peshawar said guerrillas were once again controlling a 45-kilometer (27-mile) stretch of the 95-kilometer (60-mile) highway. They confirmed that regime troops held the Towr Kham checkpoint.

But they said the mujahidin have neared the Ghazi Abad farm, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from Jalalabad, and Afghan planes were bombing rebel positions in the Bela area, near Batsawul, on Friday. Details of losses were not immediately available.

Meanwhile, Radio Kabul said three people were killed and as many wounded in a land mine blast in the Surkhab area of the same province.

It said a car bomb went off at Kabul's city bus terminal, destroying at least three vehicles and damaging six.

The broadcast, monitored here, did not give any casualty figures or specify when the incidents occurred.

Mujahidin Down Transport Plane

BK2611080188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down a Kabul military transport plane, killing all 40 persons on board. They also reportedly carried out a missile attack on a military installation in Farah, killing at least 20 Kabul soldiers.

According to another report, the mujahidin carried out rocket attacks on a military camp at (Sangdurreh) near Baghlan Airport, destroying several military vehicles. In an operation at Pashtun Zarghun in Herat Province, at least 25 Kabul regime soldiers were killed and several military posts were destroyed.

In another operation in Vardak Province, at least 6 Kabul regime military posts were destroyed and more than 30 troops were killed.

Meanwhile, about 400 Kabul regime troops led by their officers, attempted to capture the provincial headquarters at Qandahar. The Soviet TASS news agency reported that the attempt was foiled after a fierce battle with troops loyal to the Kabul regime. The news agency said that the rebels were forced to retreat, but it gave no other details.

Rebels Recapture Towr Kham

BK2611093888 Hong Kong AFP in English 0855 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Nov 26 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels have recaptured the key border post of Towr Kham on the Khyber Pass, resistance sources said here Saturday.

"The mujahidin's green flag was again flying atop the Towr Kham post" on the Pakistan border, they said.

They said 184 soldiers besieged by the rebels surrendered the post at 8.30 p.m (1530 GMT) Friday suffering an acute shortage of food and supplies.

The troops lost hope after the rebels captured four more districts along the highway between Towr Kham and Jalalabad on Thursday and cut all links with the garrison, the sources said, adding that the post could not be supplied by air.

The government post had fallen to the rebels earlier this month but it was recaptured by Afghan troops on November 12 after a counter-offensive.

The mujahidin were advancing towards Jalalabad, the capital of eastern Nangarhar Province, and were in control of more than 50 kilometers (30 miles) of the 90-kilometer (54-mile) highway, the resistance sources said.

Another military post, Bari Kaab, 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of Towr Kham, fell to the guerrillas Saturday, the sources said in this northwestern Pakistani city where a seven-party resistance alliance is based.

The troops who surrendered at Towr Kham included 60 senior Army officers under the command of Major Musa Khan of the Afghan Army's First Frontier Force, the sources said, adding that they were being interrogated by the rebels.

The troops handed 131 Kalashnikov assault rifles and other weapons to the mujahidin, who also seized one tank and two Army trucks, the sources said.

'Dozens' of Rebels Killed

BK2711130388 Hong Kong AFP in English 1234 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Nov 27 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels captured a military post and destroyed two others in southern Qandahar Province killing dozens of Afghan soldiers, resistance sources here said Sunday.

The military posts in Takhteh Pol District, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Qandahar city, were captured and destroyed in attacks Wednesday, the sources said.

The same day mujahidin attacked Qandahar airfield and cantonment killing 45 Kabul soldiers, the sources said.

Fifteen Afghan Army officers defected to mujahidin and eight were captured, they said. Seventeen guerrillas were killed and 25 injured in the fighting, they said.

The official Afghan BAKHTAR news agency said in a dispatch Sunday monitored in Islamabad that Afghan Armed Forces had killed dozens of armed rebels in the suburbs of Qandahar during "mopping up operations." It did not say when the operations were carried out.

Mujahidin Capture Gowshtah HQ

BK2711153988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] According to latest reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured the district headquarters of Gowshtah in Nangarhar Province and they are now advancing toward Jalalabad.

In the operation for the control of Gowshtah headquarters, 50 Kabul regime soldiers were killed and a commander, (Muhammad Khan), was captured. A news agency report says that the battle is raging for the control of nearby posts of (Khardab) and (Qandau).

Rocket Attack on Kabul 25 Nov

BK2811113488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have conducted a rocket attack on the capital, Kabul, destroying Army installations and an ammunition dump.

Heavy losses were inflicted on the Kabul regime forces during the attack launched on Friday last [25 November].

Bangladesh

Student Clashes Leave 30 Injured; Campus Closed

BK2711054688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 27 (AFP)—A college campus in northern Bangladesh has been closed indefinitely after clashes between rival student groups left at least 30 of them injured, press reports said here Sunday [27 November].

Students reportedly used firearms in the clashes which had originated in political differences between two opposition-backed student organisations, the reports said.

The authorities ordered Edward College in Pabna, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) from Dhaka closed indefinitely on Saturday after two weeks of escalating violence, the reports quoted local officials as saying.

A university campus and a medical college in Rajshahi in northern Bangladesh were closed last week in the wake of student violence.

At least three students were injured Saturday in clashes between rival groups at a Dhaka campus, press reports said.

Strike Disrupts Normal Life in Dhaka 28 Nov

BK2811091888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, normal life was disrupted in the capital, Dhaka, following a 12-hour general strike from this morning. The call for hartal [strike] was given by Bangladesh Nationalist Party Alliance and a few other political parties demanding free and fair poll under a neutral government for establishment of a popular government.

The AIR Dhaka correspondent, Sanat Mukherjee, reports that all educational institutions, shops, and business establishments remained closed. Reports of bomb throwing and clashes between rival groups were received from several areas. Police arrested 15 people so far.

Awami Chief Announces Anti-Government Program

BK2511111988 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Nov 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpts] Awami League chief and leader of the Eight-Party Alliance Sheikh Hasina exhorted all democratic, progressive, nationalist and pro-liberation forces to forge greater unity and give a final blow to the present autocratic regime through mass movement to establish a democratic elected government.

Addressing a big public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue on Thursday, the Awami League chief announced a month-long action programme for mass movement beginning from November 15 to unseat the present regime.

She gave a call to observe "mass resistance day" against autocracy, fundamentalism and communalism on December 10 with country-wide programmes for mass demonstration and rallies.

The month-long action programme included "mass contact" by Awami League and the Eight-Party Alliance all over the country from November 10 to December 9, observance of "Shaheed Intellectual Day" and "National Victory Day" on December 14 and December 16 respectively.

Presided over by Sheikh Hasina the public meeting was organised by the Eight-Party Alliance in observance of the "Dhaka seige" programme of November 10 last year in which Awami League workers Nur Hussain and Babul were killed in police firing.

Paying rich tribute to the martyrs Awami League chief said that the blood of the martyrs would not go in vain. "The end of the present autocratic regime is imminent" she told the crowd who responded with full throated slogan.

Narrating the phases of the mass movement, Sheikh Hasina said that Awami League and her alliance launched the movement first against the autocratic rule. She pointed out that BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] from whom General Ershad took over power did not protest the unconstitutional change over as its leader was more eager to get car, houses and monthly honorarium from the Government.

She added that BNP joined the movement spearheaded by her Alliance later on. She criticised that in the name of movement, certain parties made "adventurism" that ultimately harmed the mass movement. She advised people to remain alert against those forces who talk about movement staying inside cantonment.

"We don't want autocracy and we believe in constitutional change over through ballot not by bullet", the Awami League chief asserted.

Referring to the statement by BNP Chairman Begum Khaleda Zia that she would not go for unity with those who did not observe 7th November the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said that unity could never be forged by imposing conditions.

She said that her party believed that people are the source of all political power. She stressed the need to bring an end to the politics of killings and palace intrigue that started with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

Condemning the bomb attack on the procession of the Eight-Party Alliance near Khilgaon on the day by workers of certain political party and the design to foil her public meeting by exploding bombs near the meeting venue, Sheikh Hasina said that those who could practice such things never wanted democracy. She added that people were now aware of such forces who had an underhand deal with the present autocratic regime.

Amidst cheers from the crowd the Awami League chief said that the present government had no moral right to stay in power after losing the confidence of the common people.

She added that the flood problem, economic crisis and the political unrest confronting the nation today could be solved only by a democratic government elected through free and fair polls. [passage omitted]

After the meeting a procession was brought out and the people chanted anti-government slogans hailing the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

USSR Envoy Presents Credentials to Ershad

BK2611015288 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Nov 88 p 3

[Text] Mr Vitaliy Stepanovich Smirnov, ambassador designate of the USSR to Bangladesh, presented his credentials to President Hussain Mohammad Ershad at the Banga Bhavan on Saturday morning, reports BSS [BANGLADESH NEWS AGENCY].

Presenting his letter of credence, Mr Smirnov expressed the confidence that the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened further in the coming days.

Reciprocating the sentiments, President Ershad assured the new USSR envoy of all possible cooperation of his government in discharging his responsibilities during the tenure of his office in Bangladesh.

Earlier, on his arrival at Bangladesh Mr Smirnov was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of the President's Guard regiment. He took the salute and inspected the parade.

India

Home Minister: Terrorism 'National Problem'

BK2611151088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said terrorism is a national problem and it needs a national effort to be tackled. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, he said the center will provide every possible assistance to states for combatting terrorism.

In reply to a question, Mr Buta Singh said almost all the political parties, except the Unified Akali Dal [UAD], have come up openly against terrorism. If the UAD leaders also follow suit, the problem of terrorism will vanish in no time.

The home minister said senior police officials of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh are meeting soon to evolve a new common strategy to fight terrorism. He announced the decision to revive the Home Ministry's advisory committee on Chandigarh.

Rao on Regional Ties, Relations With Pakistan

BK2711033488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, in his address to the plenary session of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization being held in New Delhi, has called for strengthening of regional cooperation.

He outlined the initiatives taken by India to improve relations with its neighbors, but regretted that Pakistan is still supporting terrorism in Punjab and pursuing its nuclear weapon program. Mr Rao, however, hoped things will change with the completion of the electoral process there.

Minister on Pakistan Involvement in Bomb Blasts

BK2811091088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] The minister of state for home, Mr Santosh Mohan Dev, told the Lok Sabha today that the center has information about involvement of Pakistan in cases of bomb blasts in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to a question he said the government does not have any similar information with regard to incidents in Gujarat. He said there have been 66 incidents of bomb explosions in Punjab this year in which 71 persons were killed.

4 Killed, 15 Arrested in Police Raid in Bihar

BK2811033088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In Bihar, four persons—including one police sub-inspector and three extremists—were killed and four others injured in an encounter at Bhadasi village under Arval police station of Jahanabad District yesterday. The police party raided an extremist hideout in the village. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered. Fifteen persons have been arrested so far.

Parliament Deplores U.S. Visa Refusal to 'Arafat

BK2811091688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] In Rajya Sabha today members from sides criticized the United States' action not to extend visa facilities to the Palestinian leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, to attend the UN session.

The matter was raised through a special mention by Mr Jagesh Desai, Congress-I, and others. Members from both sides associated themselves with a special mention and deplored the U.S. decision. They urged the government to take up the matter with the United States to ensure that Mr 'Arafat gets the visa to go to New York for the UN session.

Police Seize Heroin, Opium in West Delhi House

BK2711034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The narcotics control bureau seized 29 kg of heroin and 1 kg of opium from a house in West Delhi yesterday. The seizure is valued at 30 crore rupees. The place of origin of these drugs is believed to be Pakistan.

Iran

Majles Speaker's Second Friday Prayers Sermon

LD2511174588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1255 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majles, acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and substitute Friday prayers leader of Tehran, at Tehran University on 25 November—recorded]

[Excerpts] We have several various domestic and international issues to be discussed in the second sermon. This is the reason for cutting the first sermon slightly short. We have some domestic and some international issues to discuss.

Our first issue concerns Armed Forces Unity Week. Of course, this is not a week in real terms, but is in line with the imam's message, the Charter of Fraternity, which puts us at a juncture from which we can start our movement toward complete unity and toward cooperation between different lines—by which I mean the political and ideological currents that exist in the society, as is natural in revolutions in which everybody chooses a strategy according to his taste, mode of thought, and understanding.

God willing, we can move from this juncture toward fraternity on the basis of the guidelines we have received from our esteemed leadership. I emphatically admonish all those loyal to the revolution—those forces within the political, administrative, military, and security structures—to try to carry out the blessed exhortations of his eminence, the imam. [crowd chants approval]

Thank you very much! Thank you. When I came here and realized that the prayers included this among their other chants, I was very impressed by these inherent, natural, and healthy Islamic modes of thought which reveal a great degree of adherence to the imam's guidelines.

We hope that those who are in higher positions in the country, who have organizations and institutions, will listen to imam's guidelines as these Hezbollah people have done who communicate with us in this manner because if we are not united in our internal affairs, we must expect our enemies to infiltrate through the gaps created by confrontation and via channels through which the enemy knows how to poison the atmosphere and carry out mischievous attacks, thereby widening these channels.

The other issue concerns Mobilization Week. The magnimity of the Mobilization organization and the importance of this popular, Islamic, and revolutionary movement has been clarified thanks to his eminence the imam's illuminating message to the magnificent gathering of mobilization commanders, and thanks to the debates reflected in the mass media yesterday.

There was not a single point that did not appear in the imam's message. The imam—this famous man of learning ['Aref] this highly esteemed wise man [Hakim-e 'Azim-ol Sha'n]—has explained in simple terms the essence of the movement of these unknown wise men ['Aref], these men who are in love with martyrdom. Every point was mentioned in that message. [passage omitted]

Mobilization is the keyword to the revolution's steadfastness, to our victory, and to our enemies' disappointment. When our enemies feel that this nation is strong from within, they will not try anything further. This strength requires a national unity—which we have, praise be to God—and requires a readiness for national defense, which we have this through the mobilization forces.

Of course, the other branches of our Armed Forces, such as the Army, the IRGC, the Islamic committees, the police, and the Gendarmerie, carry out their duties and defend the frontiers of the country under normal circumstances. Yet the danger facing this revolution—a revolution that holds a message for the entire world and that

has enemies all over the world, enemies such as the powers of arrogance—requires that this revolution be insured against this danger by providing military training for its youth. This has been carried out already.

My interpretation is that the mobilization forces are not merely to fight war, but to prevent war. If we had had these forces from the day the war began, Iraq never would have dared attack this country. So long as we have these forces, no country—no matter how strong and well-equipped, not even a superpower—will allow its forces to invade a country in which all the youth, or the majority of them, have military training and become fighters.

The invading power may be able to fight against a military force, but when all the people are armed, every house is barricaded, and a gun emerges from every window, no one will want to fight such a battle. Therefore, mobilization must be emphasized because of cultural issues relating to the fact that the youth are brought up within mobilized ranks and are protected there.

Moreover, emphasis should be placed on mobilization's role in protecting the revolution, a revolution that is growing, that has a message, and that will not sit quietly in the world and not speak out its message and essence.

We always must emphasize the mobilization forces, and thank their ranks for the selflessness displayed in the past. We must assure them that they will be needed in the future. Of course, it must be kept in mind that we may have a farmer who is also a member of the mobilization forces, or a shopkeeper, student, or an office worker who is also a member. [passage omitted]

If we maintain this state, it is beneficial, inexpensive to run, and yields cultural and moral results, in addition to safeguarding the country's security. We must be grateful for the imam's initiatives. The imam himself considers the mobilization forces a blessing from God. We are proud that God felt that this revolution and this nation were worthy of this idea that came to the imam's mind so it could be implemented.

Now we move on to other issues, including our Navy, which carried out some impressive self-sacrifices during the war and today, such as the great victory it achieved in the northern Persian Gulf in its clashes with the enemy. In these operations it almost destroyed the Iraqi Navy to the point that, until the end of the war, it was powerless and left our Navy, both the regular and the IRGC's Navy, dominant in the Persian Gulf.

Today, too, we see that if security exists in the Persian Gulf, it is because of the presence of these same forces. No one can challenge our military presence in the Persian Gulf. Because of this we have recently witnessed about 100 NATO warships that came because they saw our naval show of strength. We sincerely thank the Navy, Army, and Guards Corps personnel who, during wartime, were successful in safeguarding the Persian Gulf and who today are an acceptable, impressive, and weighty presence there.

We ask them to take advantage of this opportunity to opportunity to become fully trained and appropriately prepared so that our enemies will not entertain any ideas of carrying out aggression against our waters and coastlines. [crowd chants slogans]

Another issue I will comment on concerns the situation in the Majles. The Islamic Consultative Assembly has embarked on an extensive review and study of the 5-year plan. [passage omitted] I request our dear people to expect less from their deputies during this review so the deputies can attend many Majles committee meetings in Tehran to review the 5-year plan.

We ask the people not to expect too much from their deputies concerning executive tasks. They should not expect them to interfere in executive tasks; their job concerns legislating; planning; deciding on programs; and government planning regarding the country's general policies. [passage omitted] We especially need a greater attendance by the Majles deputies during this time.

The other issue that came up recently on the basis of the imam's, the esteemed leader's, instructions and of repeated reminders by acting leader Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd interrupts chanting slogans], concerns free trade; the people's participation in foreign trade, about which the imam gave instructions. We have been studying this.

The Commerce Ministry has prepared a plan and presented it to the government and the policy making council. In reviewing it we took into consideration opinions voiced in consultations. We finally concluded that we should gradually make the importation of certain vital commodities duty free and place them at the disposal of the private sector. Thus, people can use foreign goods in the free market, which is more or less at their disposal, or use the funds sent from abroad by Iranians working in other countries.

We thought these sources could be used and thus the advice given by the imam and the acting leader could be worked out. Assistance by the government and the reconstruction council [showra-ye bazsazi] was considered in this direction.

The success of implementing this policy depends on how well the private sector operates. If they give a good account of themselves and do not exceed their limits in their pursuit of profit, and if they show that they are good and well intentioned merchants and traders for the people, then this trend will expand and apply to other sectors. We hope to see merchants doing well in the future so they may both satisfy people and make this experience successful. In this way a larger section of the

population could participate in these kinds of activities, although our expection of the private sector is that it should be involved more in the country's production and development tasks.

The trading sector is not so important and, God willing, soon the reconstruction plans and policies we will announce will soon set out the guidelines for the private sector in affairs pertaining to production, agriculture, industry, and other areas. These policies will pave the way for the private sector, so this sector should be prepared to participate well and conduct themselves well.

Another issue, which is partly domestic and partly international, is the POW exchange. Our nation should be brought up to date regarding the issue. As you have heard in the news, we agreed to exchange ill and wounded POW's.

According to the first figures announced, there are over 1,100 Iraqi POW's in Iran and about 400 Iranian POW's in Iraq. However, this is not the true figure. These are the figures as registered by the Red Cross. [passage omitted] Now that we are about to exchange the POW's, there is a new problem. We delivered 115 POW's to the Red Cross. When the Red Cross examined them, 27 were diagnosed as healthy. They were ill when they were registered, but are healthy now.

Therefore, they are not covered by the agreement. About 10 POW's were sent to a clinic; their fate will be determined later. Some POW's sought asylum. About 16 POW's said: We are ill, but we do not want to go to Iraq. That is their right. They also told the Red Cross that they wished to seek asylum, so they stayed in Iran. Thus, over 50 were left. We sent them over. The Iraqis, who were supposed to send 41 POW's in return, sent only 19. This was Iraq's first contravention of the agreement.

If the Iranian POW's seek asylum in Iraq, and if the Red Cross finds them healthy, they could keep them. But, if they are ill or wounded they would be released. We seriously ask the Red Cross to pursue the matter, so that no breach of the agreement occurs. It was necessary to explain this to you, the people, to prevent any distortion of the facts when the reports are published.

There are two important international issues I must talk about. One is the Palestine issue. This week a report was issued on the decisions of the Palestine National Council meeting in Algeria. The document contained two or three important decisions that are noteworthy.

One decision is to establish for the first time a Palestinian state. The second decision is to accept a UN resolution which, to all intents and purposes, recognizes Israel; that is, they accept the reality of Israel's existence. This the Arabs had so far been reluctant to do and the Palestinians had totally rejected. Another point that can be gleaned from their remarks is that they might give up their armed struggle and jihad.

These points are separate. No one can deny the right of the Palestinian nation to establish a state; that it is a government-in-exile and based in a certain place is their business. However, it must be a government which follows the goals of the Palestinian people, not one which betrays them. If its first action is to present part of Palestine to Israel, it cannot be called the Government of Palestine. [passage omitted] However, to accept the UN resoluton recognizing Israel is high treason that dismisses 40 years of struggle.

All the killing and the suffering of the Palestinian people in the past 40 or 50 years, the many made homeless and driven to live as refugees all over the world or in poverty in the camps, and everything that we see happening in Palestine today are all because the Palestinians said: We do not recognize Israel. However, those who consider themselves the representatives of Palestine have decided to recognize and hold talks with Israel. This is totally unacceptable; it is treason. The Islamic Republic will strongly oppose such decisions.

Of course, if they have decided to recognize and talk with Israel they should forget the armed struggle and jihad. These two points are totally unacceptable to every revolutionary Muslim. However, the establishment of a government which honors the goals of the Palestinians is acceptable to us. [crowd chants]

Another topic in the headlines this week which we have not discussed is the letter written by the former U.S. President addressed to his eminence, the imam, and a similar one addressed to me. You have already heard the text of the letter addressed to the imam. The letter addressed to me was similar but did not include his petition for the reprieve of the U.S. spy. The text of my letter will be published later. The reason for delaying its publication is that we are in the process of forming a reply.

I will disclose part of its contents to you now, to inform you of the U.S. intentions, and I will brief you on the imam's reply, which was voiced through his honorable son.

The current U.S. policy is to search for ways to establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. But our relations are in their current state because of U.S. arrogance and the mischief inherent in its government [hakemiyat].

After much contemplation, the only interpretation I can see is one of begging from a position of strength [geda'e az moza'e godrat]; that is, when one decides to beg but without assuming the appearance of a beggar, and therefore speaks from a position of strength like the tribal chiefs who try to get something from their peasants but impose their own special terms.

The issue they are pursuing is this: They want to free their hostages, and to try to soften Iran's attitude toward them. They are seeking ways to establish contact [ertaba'at]. They have witnessed how Iran has established

contact with others, but has not accepted the United States. So the United States is being humiliated. They assess Iran differently. They consider Iran a place with which the United States seriously needs to establish contact. So they tried to pave the way by these means.

For a while, Mr Reagan repeated the things mentioned in Carter's letter. This was their method. The gist of the letter is that if you help us free our hostages, it will remove obstacles in the way of opening Iran-U.S. contacts. Its mischievous intent is as follows:

First, they want to suggest that the hostagetaking in Lebanon is related to you, you support the terrorists, you are hostagetakers, and you are responsible; that is why the United States must establish ties with you. You want to establish ties, but these hostages are an obstacle. This is how they are trying to persuade U.S. public opinion, world opinion. That is how they want us to help free the hostages, to assist them in achieving their deeprooted desire, which was also the basis of the McFarlane issue.

As I mentioned before, the main aim of Reagan and the others at the time was to establish contact with us. This came before freeing the hostages. They are pursuing the same idea, the old White House policy, but they lack courage. Arrogance, their arrogant morality, bars them from admitting their mistake, admitting: Yes, we made a mistake, we were at fault, we treated Iran badly, we treated the revolution badly, and now we want to redress our mistakes. This is not possible for them, so they speak to us this way.

We have this to say to them, and we have not yet said it, although his eminence the imam mentioned it in part: First, what has the Lebanon hostage situation to do with us? It is not connected with us in any way. Second, you assume that we are the ones urging you to establish contact, but this is not true because we are worried lest this happens. We do not want a relationship similar to that of a wolf and a sheep. Relations between a country like ours and a country like yours is like that of a wolf and a sheep. You are not coming to support us, your intention is to devour us.

Therefore, given our interpretation, both points of your letter are irrelevant. We are neither involved in taking hostages nor interested in establishing ties with you. Our policy is the same policy we announced at the onset of the revolution: The United States can not establish ties with Iran until it learns to behave itself. [crowd chants slogans] And we have other issues that we must raise with the gentlemen. If you really want your hostages released, if this is the main issue for you, and if you think we can be useful to you, why do you not write and tell us: If you help us, we will help with the release of your hostages?

You undoubtedly know that we have hostages in Lebanon. We had hostages there before you. Four of our people in Lebanon were taken by the Phalangists and we still have no information about them, except some information about where they were held. We have not had news for years. At least your hostages write letters to their families and send videos. We have no news whatsoever of them. Why do you not address that problem?

Do you not have influence with the Phalangists? Can the United States say it has no influence on the Phalangists? If it said that it would be lying. We know that the Phalangists are alive because of the United States. If we have influence with some Lebanese people but do not even know whether the hostages are in our friends' hands, you expect us to take your hostages and hand them over.

But you do not give us the right to ask you to take our hostages from the hands of the Phalangists, who are your servants and lackeys, and hand them over to us. Well, that is the very essence of arrogance, the mischief, the wolf of which we speak.

If you want to be close to us, be our friend, why do you behave like this as you have from the very beginning? You see only one side. If you say you have no influence over the Phalangists in Lebanon, we do not accept that. If you plead ignorance we do not accept that, either. We know that you know. So why did you not write that in the letter?

Yes, you do not want to mention the Iranian hostages so the people in the world, in the United States, will not see that if you want to accuse Iran of supporting terrorism, the same thing applies to you. You support the Phalangists who hold hostages. Why is it that we become supporters of terrorists, but not you? You do not mention that in the letter.

Another issue that is important to you and that you pursue is when you say the past is gone, let us start anew. Well, your behavior reveals that you are undertaking the most mischievous acts of enmity against Iran. Yes, a few days ago, not more than a week or two ago, Mr Reagan's first act after the U.S. election was to freeze Iranian assets for another year. What sort of action is that? By what right is this done?

Is it a situation where if two countries have differences, one has the right to freeze the other's assets? Is this an international right? Billions of dollars of our money has been in U.S. banks for 12 years. A huge part of Iran's wealth was stolen by the family of the late shah. They took it and put it in U.S. banks. The Americans will not even give us their addresses.

Well, if an example of supporting terrorism is your claim that Iran's friends hold hostages in Lebanon, then your friends, too, hold hostages. So the entire world can freeze U.S. assets. That is their right. That is the meaning of the relationship of a wolf and a sheep. That is what Satan means.

How did you behave toward us in the Persian Gulf? After 8 years of supporting Iraq and all the ramifications, you brought tens of warships here, you brought your aircraft carrier. You officially went to war against us. At Al-Faw, you entered the war on Iraq's side. You sent helicopters. You destroyed several of our defenseless oil platforms. You sank several ships. You martyred so many noble people. You launched a missile against a passenger aircraft, which even terrorists would not do. You killed 300 innocent people and plunged them into the sea. They were for the most part never found.

All that cruelty, all that brutality, and you still think Iran is going to come and take your hand now and say, yes, the past is gone and you can have relations with us on equal terms. What you are in truth is that same Satan, that same wolf, looking for a lamb. That is how you want our relations to be.

As for the hostages, our enmity is as before: We are enemies. We have declared many times, if the Lebanese people accept our intercession [shefa'at], we are willing to intercede on the condition that you, too, use your influence in Lebanon and release our hostages. If you do that, you can expect us to undertake that humanitarian act. There is a lot of work to do. If we want to do good things in the world, there is a lot to do.

There are people who are suffering hardship throughout the world, whether in Afghanistan or in other countries. There are good deeds to be done. Is this the only good deed left for you to pursue? It has a special bias, as it is the same tactic of oppression which does not recognize.... [incomplete sentence as heard]

Of course, because we think they will not tell the American people about our Friday prayers, we will write these things and send them, so the American people may know. We know the U.S. Administration knows this; it is not news to them. However, the world's mass media may even abuse that letter and say Iran does not heed the cry of those who want to relieve suffering.

We must leave a document for history and for the world media saying: No, it is not as you say. You are the main culprits. It is your behavior that always darkens your relations with countries who want to be independent, who want to be free.

You may only claim that you want ties with independent countries, that you are sincere, that you only want ties when you distance yourself from such colonialist actions. And your biggest action is that which is going on in Palestine, where so many people are suppressed every day. Israel is doing that with your support. Were it not for you, Israel could not remain there. You cannot even claim that you want peace. They said they came to the Persian Gulf for the sake of peace, because we would not accept it. You can see now that Iraq is hedging.

Why is it that just now, because Iraq has not accepted it, that you increased several fold the credit you put at its disposal? Why is it that just now your doctors went to Turkey and saw that the Kurds were chemically wounded? And when parliament, the Congress and the Senate, voted to condemn Iraq for using chemical weapons against Iran and against the Kurdish people, why is it that the U.S. Administration paid no attention to that vote and still pursues its own path, supporting Iraq, our enemy? It is clear that the claim to peace is not true either.

You only know how to bully. Whoever is your servant, whoever surrenders to you, whoever obeys your commands, whoever is your colony, you present him as a democracy, a freedom seeker, progressive. However, whoever hangs on to his cap so your hurricane does not blow it away, whoever looks after himself so you do not pick his pocket is presented in the world as a rebel, a terrorist. It is for that reason that independent countries are afraid of having relations with you. [crowd chants]

At our splendid Friday prayer ceremonies today are gathered officers and NCO's of the Navy and a large group of disabled and wounded Iraqis. We welcome them in the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic verse omitted]

6 'Pseudo-Ulema' Executed for Corruption

LD2811133488 Tehran IRNA in English 1300 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 28, IRNA—Six "pseudo-ulema" were executed this month after being found guilty of corruption, the special Court of the 'Ulema announced Monday.

They were Mohammad Hasan Mashkur, Hoseyn Kazem 'Arab, Fathollah Omid Najafabadi, Hoseyn Reza'i, Seyyed 'Ali Naqi Asna-Ashari (Sahebzamani), and Seyyed 'Ali Naqi Khavari Langarudi.

Three others, an Armenian Robert Rastaqi, Bahman Rahmani and Behruz Ghahremaniyan were also executed in connection with the others.

The court investigated their cases with regard to "the formation of corrupt bands, corrupting a number of individuals, deep moral and financial corruption, insulting Islamic sanctities and the Hezbollah nation and committing acts against the code of the 'ulema."

"With the explicit admissions of the accused, they were condemned to death by the honorable chairman of the special Court of the 'Ulema and the decision was carried out alternatively from 15 Aban to 15 Azar (6 to 26 November)." The court statement said.

It said many 'ulema had sacrificd themselves throughout history to guide people towards spiritual perfection. "But at times there were also corrupt elements who joined the holy ranks of the 'ulema without having any commitment or piety."

The statement did not say whether some or all of the nine persons had jointly committed the crimes.

Reyshahri on Executions

LD2811133588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] We end the hour's news report with an interview with the information minister about party activity, foreign mass media ploys in connection with the execution of a number of pseudo-clergy, and the activities of lackey grouplets in the province of Sistan va Baluchestan:

[Begin unidentified correspondent's recording] Parties, groups, and publications which do not conspire against Islamic ideals and values, which are prized by the absolute majority of the nation, may operate in the Islamic Republic. Announcing this fact in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit, Information Minister Reyshahri who has travelled to Zahedan, referred to the foreign mass media propaganda on the execution of a number of people in Iran, including several pseudo-clergymen.

He said: In the Islamic Republic all sections of the people benefit from equal rights, and all people are treated alike when they commit offences. As there is no difference in the treatment of clergy and nonclergy or military and civilian, a number of pseudo-clergymen, who were implicated in various offences, were arrested and put on trial. He stressed: Islam, the Koran, and Islamic justice govern this country. It is natural that even when a pseudo-clergyman commits an offense, he will also be dealt with.

He added: In that connection, several pseudo-clergymen, including Omid Najafabadi, who had been arrested some time ago, were condemned to death after being tried, and the execution order was carried out.

The information minister referred to Mobilization Week and praised the selflessness of the mobilization forces. He stressed: If we succeed in thinking as the mobilization forces do, and if the country's executive authorities think as the mobilization forces do, the enemy will abandon his greed for this country.

This is the Central News Unit in Zahedan. [end recording]

Musavi Comments on War-Disabled Institution

LD2711172788 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The cabinet met this morning. At the beginning of the meeting Prime Minister Musavi discussed the decree on establishing an institution to serve the war-disabled and said: The institution planned to serve the disabled will be effective only if the ideas and work of the revolution's dear disabled themselves are used to form and create it.

Among the disabled are those who remember our nation's holy defense, and there are commanders with superior mental and command capabilities. Their valuable help must be used to lay the foundations of a shining revolutionary institution, and that institution must crystallize the Islamic revolution's values.

During the meeting, the amendment to the constitution of the helicopter services organization, proposed by the Oil Ministry, and the bill to provide facilities relating to the employment and administration of the disabled were approved by the cabinet.

The report on the cabinet meeting also states: The cabinet praised the record and services of the late Dr Sami, the first health minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Prime Minister Musavi Arrives in Gorgan

LD2811121088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi arrived in Gorgan this morning and was met by the imam's representative in the Gorgan and Dasht region and by the Gorgan Friday imam, the governor general, a number of Majles deputies, the governor, military and security commanders, and other regional officials.

In an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent in Gorgan on arrival there, he said the aim of his trip is to meet the region's basijis and to participate in the 20,000-strong (?Rahib) maneuver. He added: In view of the imam's commands and the government's emphasis on the fact that agriculture should be given a special priority, we intend to establish a specialist agricultural university which would provide various courses.

God willing, with the assistance of the people and on the basis of the people's longstanding interest in culture, and Gorgan is renowned in that respect, we will be able to lay the foundations of a university for agricultural growth and expansion.

During the trip, the means by which the government can assist that important agricultural region will be studied with the help of clergymen and officials.

Mir Hoseyn Musavi then attended a gathering of the region's basijis which was held in Gorgan's Azadi Stadium and spoke about the selflessness and the self-sacrifices of the basij during 8 years of holy defense.

Musavi Message to Romanian Counterpart Reported
LD2700144600 Tehran IRNA in English
1425 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi in a message to his Romanian counterpart Constantin Dascalescu expressed satisfaction over the expanding Tehran-Bucharest ties.

Romanian premier had earlier sent a message to Musavi calling for the promotion of relations and inviting his Iranian counterpart to visit Bucharest. Musavi said he hoped to visit Romania at a suitable time.

Khomeyni Receives Rahmani, Delegation
LD2611161488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, on the anniversary of the issuance of the decree for the formation of the 20-million strong army by the imam of the ummah, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rahmani, the official in charge of the Mobilization of the Oppressed Unit, accompanied by several of his deputies, met with Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Red Cross To Meet on Gulf War Prisoners
LD2411111788 Kuwait KUNA in English 1644 GMT
24 Nov 88

[Text] Geneva, Nov 24 (KUNA)—Senior officials from the International Red Cross are to meet Thursday evening to see what response should be made to Iran and Iraq following their failure to release all of the sick and wounded prisoners of war who were due to have been repatriated during the day.

Under an agreement reached by the two Gulf war belligerents early this month, all sick and wounded prisoners were to be exchanged, starting today with an initial 156.

ICRC spokesman Carlos Bauvert said that on the first repatriation flight from Tehran to Baghdad this morning there were only 52 Iraqi POWS on board, instead of the 115 originally planned for.

The IRGC had been told by the Iranian authorities that some of the missing men were no longer ill and accordingly were not covered by the terms of the repatriation agreement, while others among them had voluntarily decided to stay in Iran, he noted.

The Swiss official acknowledged that the Iranians had not presented all 115 men to its delegatee in Tehran for independent verification of this.

Under IRGC regulations, each prospective repatriated prisoner must be seen by its delegates before being sent home, to check their medical condition and to ensure that they wish to return.

Iraq's response, on being informed by the Red Cross of how many men were on the first flight, was to reduce the number of sick and wounded Iranians repatriated today from 41 to 19, he said.

Contacts were now [words indistinct] with both governments to ensure that the full repatrition of the 1,158 Iraqis and 411 Iranians covered by the agreement went ahead, he added.

"We want a full compliance with the Geneva agreement on releasing the prisoners, and we will meet tonight regarding the positions taken by the two countries", Bauvert said.

The next flight carrying prisoners was due to be made on Saturday, he noted.

Under the Third Geneva Convention, which both have signed, all prisoners of war in a conflict must be freed once there is an end to active hostilities. There are about 30,000 Iranian and 70,000 Iraqi war prisoners.

In October the ICRC appealed to Iran and Iraq to honour this obligaton, and while the Iraqis accepted, the Iranian Government replied that a mass repatriation could only be undertaken within the context of progress being achieved in peace negotiations and on a troop withdrawal to international borders. The two agreed, however, to the limited exchange of sick and wounded captives.

Wounded, Disabled POW's Exchanged With Iraq

51 Wounded Iraqis Released
LD2611112888 Tehran IRNA in English
1102 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 26, IRNA—Iran today released 51 more Iraqi ill and disabled war prisoners who were delivered to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and repatriated to Iraq.

Some 115 POWS were due to return to Iraq at each of the ten stages of the repatriation operation. But some have asked for political asylum and others have overcome their illness, making them uneligible for repatriation.

From today's group ICRC doctors verified that 21 prisoners were no longer ill and 11 others needed further medical tests to see whether they were eligible for release. Two of the prisoners sought asylum.

On Thursday Iran released 52 sick and wounded Iraqi POWS in the first stage of the operation. Iraq returned 19 Iranian POWS.

Exchange Suspended in Protest

LD2711151288 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 27 Nov 88

["Iran Suspends POW Exchange To Protest Iraq's Withholding of Iranian POW's"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27, IRNA—Iran on Sunday said that the repatriation of sick and disabled Iraqi war prisoners would be suspended until the release of Iranian POW's who were not returned home in the initial stages of the exchange operation.

"Consideration Iraq's repeated violation of the November 11 agreement concerning the repatriation of sick and wounded prisoners, the continuation of the prisoner exchange operation would be pending the release of 67 sick and wounded Iranian POWS," said Ataollah Mohajerani, head of Iran's War Prisoners Committee.

Iran's Foreign Ministry also sent a letter to the International Red Cross representative tonight protesting against Iraq's violation of the accord and demanding the immediate release of the Iranian POWS withheld by Iraq.

The 67 POWS were to have been repatriated in the first, second and third stages of the exchange operation which began Thursday. But Iraq gave no reason for not releasing them.

Iran and Iraq were due to repatriate 115 and 41 ill and injured POWS respectively at every stage of the ten-stage operation. In the first three stages so far, Iran has released about half the number, although, under Red Cross supervision, it has specified that the remaining POWS had either asked for asylum or were no longer ill.

"It has become clear in recent days that as this trend continues Iraq will still practically keep many ill or injured Iranian POW's in captivity," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

Mohajerani said Iraq had once again showed its lack of good will. "Of course this is nothing new," he added but "we hope that with the efforts of the International Red Cross Iraq will be forced to precisely observe the Geneva agreement."

He reminded that the exchange of the sick or disabled POW's was originally proposed by Iran during the Geneva talks earlier this month and in the past Iran had released a number of these POW's unilaterally to show its good will.

18 POW's Arrive in Tehran

LD2611163288 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Another 18 disabled Iranian POWS arrived in Tehran Saturday afternoon to a warm welcome by their long separated families.

Iraq was supposed to repatriate 41 POWS today, but gave no reasons for not repatriating the remaining 23.

Last Thursday also, when the first batch of disabled POWS was swapped by both sides, only 19 of the originally announced 41 sick and wounded Iranians were released by the Iraqi regime.

Iran has released 103 Iraqi sick and wounded POWS out of the scheduled 230. Some of the Iraqi prisoners rediagnosed as healthy and others chose to stay in Iran.

The agreement worked out in Geneva on November 11 called for the exchange of 1,569 registered disabled POWS. Other sick and injured POWS in both countries will be interviewed and registered by the Red Cross to prepare them for repatriation by the end of December.

15 Wounded POW's Arrive

LD2711172888 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that 15 more ill and wounded Iranian prisoners arrived at Mehrabad Airport today. They were welcomed by a number of military and civilian officials, and by a number of Red Crescent officials.

52 More Iraqis Repatriated

LD2711085788 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov 27, IRNA—Another batch of 52 sick and wounded Iraqi POWS were freed and flown back home aboard a plane chartered by the International committee of the Red Cross. This brings to 155 the total number of Iraqi POWS repatriated in three stages since Thursday.

Of the third group due to be repatriated today, 22 were identified to be ineligible because they had recovered as verified by Red Cross physicians. Nine more remained here for further medical tests to find out if they were eligible to be released. Three of them also sought political asylum which was granted.

19 Disabled POW's Arrive

LD2711195188 Tehran IRNA in English 1750 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA—Another 19 disabled POWS were accorded a warm homecoming today by officials and longing families, who with tears of joys garlanded their dear ones.

The group was the third since Thursday. Baghdad had undertaken to release batches of 41 Iranians in ten stages, but each time had withheld over half the agreed number. The first batch numbered 19 while only 18 POWS were repatriated yesterday.

As per the agreement worked out at Geneva earlier this month, the two countries are to swap a total of 1,569 disabled POWS. Iran has since released 155 Iraqis in three stages.

The Iraqi regime under various pretexts has failed to honour its undertakings, while the fact is several Iraqi POWS have requested political asylum at the last moment under the very eyes of Red Cross officials.

Today's home-coming batch included only ten military personnel, while the other nine are border civilians—some of them over 60 years of age—kidnapped by Iraqi forces in the initial days of the Ba'thist aggression.

Tehran TV Announces Visit of France's Dumas

LD2511215588 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] The French Foreign Ministry announced that French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas is to pay a visit to Iran. But the date of the visit has not been determined yet. According to agency reports, French sources in Paris said that the visit by Roland Dumas to Iran take place in the next Christian year.

Velayati Discusses Trip to SFRY, Italy

LD2511092188 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said today that the United Nations Security Council must support the immediate and proper implementation of Resolution 598, particularly the U.N. secretary general's four-point plan "more openly and more seriously."

Velayati made the remark here this morning upon returning from a two-day visit to Yugoslavia and Italy.

He said in Belgrade he met with the Yugoslav president and foreign minister to discuss mutual ties and the two NAM [Nonaligned Movement] members' cooperation at the Non-Aligned Movement. Belgrade will host the ninth NAM summit meet next year.

Velayati said he had also discussed the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war with the Yugoslav officials.

On his stop-over visit to Italy, he said he met with his Italian counterpart Giulio Andreotti who is currently chairman of the Security Council. He said they discussed bilateral relations and international issues particularly the Iraq-Iran war and the U.N. peace plan to end the eight year old war.

After the one hour meeting held at the Rome airport, the Italian foreign minister told reporters that the Iran-Iraq peace talks had not yielded any specific results so far after three round of negotaitions in New York and Geneva since Aug. 25.

Andreotti underlined the need to execute the U.N. chief's four-point plan in a bid to break the present deadlock. Before leaving Rome, Foreign Minister Velayati also confirmed that there was yet no substantial progress in the peace talks. The reason, he told reporters, was because Iraq rejected the U.N. plan which called for troop withdrawals to international borders, free navigation in the Persian Gulf, exchange of POWS and finally the dredging of the Arvand River (Shatt al-'Arab).

Velayati said no specific date had been set for the next round of the peace talks but predicted it would be in late December or early January.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Comments on PNC Declaration

LD2411214588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Nov 88

[Text] Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, deputy foreign affairs minister in charge of Arab and African countries' affairs, accompanied by Ahmad 'Azizi, representative and member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly delegation and secretary general of the Islamic Republic's Interparliamentary Committee, took part in this week's Vision [television] political roundtable.

Sheykh ol-Eslam said: If the initiative taken at the recent Palestine National Council session aims for sovereignty over all Palestinian territory, and not the acceptance of the UN resolutions which put forward a reconciliation plan with Israel vis-a-vis the territory, then the Islamic Republic of Iran would approve the initiative.

He added: In this session, on the one hand the unofficial and implicit recognition of Israel which has been declared, is naturally rejected by Iran; and on the other, any action related to the recognition of Palestinian independence would be supported by Iran. For this reason, the achievement of sovereignty over all Palestinian territory could be a step forward in the Muslim Palestinians' struggles.

However, if this sovereignty is gained over parts of Palestinian territory or at the price of official recognition of Israel, Iran will certainly reject this.

At this roundtable 'Azizi also referred to the recent PNC declaration, in line with U.S. and USSR approval, to eliminate regional tension, and said: Since World War II Palestine has been the most important issue for the two superpowers, and the peace conference is considered to be a joint superpower formula to resolve the Palestine issue, and strike at Palestinian wishes.

He added: The aim of giving territory is in fact a way of getting the Arabs to take part in face-to-face discussions, and acceptance of Resolution No 242 by the PNC is in line with the comprehensive U.S. peace plan.

Aqazadeh Briefs Cabinet on OPEC Proposals

LD2611211488 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26, IRNA—Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh is to present to the Iranian cabinet OPEC's proposal for the organization's production ceiling and a proposed 2,640,000 bpd [barrels per day] for Iran, the same quota as for Iraq.

On Saturday evening Aqazadeh briefed head of the three branches of the Islamic government on the latest developments at the organization's ministerial meet in Vienna.

Before the OPEC's meet in Vienna earlier in the week the Iranian oil minister had rejected the idea of an equal production with Iraq. In an interview on an unscheduled return trip here Saturday, however, he said the fact that certain Arab states had agreed to produce less than their quotas so that Iraq could produce at par with Iran remained within the limits of the soveriegnty of those states.

He added that the organization's ministerial meet in Vienna had decided that violation by any member state of OPEC's decisions would entitle invariably all other members to disregard those decisions.

Majles Speaker Addreses Naval Commanders

LD2611214588 Tehran IRNA in English 1918 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 26 (OANA-IRNA)—"If enemies had cut the Islamic Republic's access to the sea the development might have seriously affected the trend of the war and the country's fate," said the acting commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Saturday.

Addressing naval commanders on the even of Navy Day (Nov. 28), he said if the enemies had managed to close this vital waterway to Iran they would have created serious problems for the country. "However," he added, "we solved our problems through other ways."

The Majles speaker cautioned if the Persian Gulf turned into an insecure region both the West and the East would suffer damage because their life depends on this issue.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the naval personnel for their success in frustrating the global arrogance in its attempt to make regional waters safe for Iraq by supplying it with all kinds of weapons and airplanes such as "Exocet" air-to-sea missiles and "Super Etendard" warplanes.

They thought when some ships were attacked in the region other ships would not come here, but retaliatory attacks launched later were effective, he said.

The Majles speaker congratulating the naval personnel on Navy Day, described the occasion as an "unforgettable" day in the history of the Navy.

He said the Islamic Republic Navy enjoys more operational and defence facilities now than it did in the early days of the Iraqi-imposed war. The heroic resistance of the Navy caught the enemies of the Islamic revolution by surprise and came as a shattering blow on them, Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded.

[Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 2030 GMT on 26 November in a similar report adds the following: "The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, referring to the events of the Persian Gulf crisis, said: The final period of the Persian Gulf crisis should frankly be classed as an unprecedented crisis in world history. That sort of war, that is, the most dastardly war of a superpower against an isolated country, which had been engaged in a war for 8 years, employs the sort of tactics of weak and feeble men. A superpower should have not resorted to such tactics against a country engaged in a war."]

More on Majles Speaker's Address to Basij Seminar

LD2511202488 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, at a gathering of the Basij [Mobilization of the Oppressed] and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commanders yesterday stressed: We cannot be certain that the enemy's violations have ended. And for this reason, the Basij should continue to remain prepared, while not forgetting the activities of the reconstruction period.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: During the war, the Basij presence on the frontlines and their support of the revolution and the country provided the greatest benefit to the country. At the end of the war, too, the Basij presence on the war fronts proved to the enemy and the world that Iran's acceptance of the resolution [598] was not made out of weakness.

The acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: We should not assume that the presence of the Basij is only necessary during war, because this would be a grave mistake. The Basij is there to prevent war, not to continue it. The role of the Basij is to eliminate any intentions of assault on the revolution and the country. This is a reason behind the imam's decree of the establishment of the Basij.

In conclusion, he remarked: The Basij should take part and assist in the country's basic development activities by preparing various projects.

Majles Speaker's Mobilization Week Speech

LD2711142888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0933 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Speech by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and Majles speaker, on the occasion of Mobilization of the Oppressed Week at a meeting of Mobilization commanders; date and place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] I sincerely thank God for giving me the opportunity once again to have the pleasure of meeting you honorable people, the wealth of the revolution and the nation. I have come with the aim of meeting and benefiting from the pleasure of meeting the worthy servants of God. Our program allows us only a brief opportunity to be in your company.

Therefore, I will talk to you, in a condensed form, about several points which I think will be beneficial for the future of the revolution and for the mobilization movement and the Armed Forces.

The first point that must be mentioned by way of gratitude is that the formation of this sacred institution seems to have been a divine idea, a luminous idea transmitted at a suitable time by God to the blessed heart of this revolution's leader. On my way here, I heard on the car radio the imam's gracious words in connection with the proposal to establish the Mobilization of the Oppressed.

Those words are so in accord with realities that can one understand, after 8 years of experience, with what luminosity and with what clear-sightedness the imam raised that idea. It must truly have its source in the heavens and in divine inspiration. It is an inspiration.

The imam graciously said that we must not think that the world-devourers will leave us alone, so we must prepare ourselves. The nation's preparedness alone in the face of such satanic powers can be nothing other than this very Mobilization movement. If we were to think that a nation, alone like us, could maintain itself in the face of so many satans by relying on the strength of weapons, economic strength, words, and propaganda—the customary weapons of resistance or attack in the world—we would be wrong.

Confronting the East, the West, Zionism, and reaction alone, how much weaponry could be assembled, and what kind of weapons could be found to maintain superiority?

What they do not have which you do is precisely what we can see here in this hall. A glimpse of the huge ocean of Mobilization forces, one wave of the strong and continuous storms of generations of Mobilization forces can be seen at this meeting—commanders and officials. [passage omitted]

Throughout the war, we derived the greatest advantage from this sacred movement's presence on the frontlines and from its support. Your most recent presence was so effective that it foiled all the conspiracies. When we decided to make peace and the enemy thought once again that that decision was a product of weakness, we had no other means of making the enemy understand that the decision was not a product of weakness than by having the Mobilization wave reveal itself once more.

There was a storm, and the continuous waves of Mobilization youths went to the fronts. The enemies realized they had made a mistake, and they succumbed to an acceptance of the resolution [UN Security Council Resolution No 598].

The world realized then that Iran could continue the war or it could end the war. There was a long period when the world was saying no war, but we were determined to continue the war, and no one could alter the people's decision. When the imam decided that the war should end, it took only a few days for the world to realize that that decision was serious, that it had serious support, and that it could bring the war to an end. It became clear that the Mobilization forces had the last word, either in continuing or ending the war. [crowd chants]

Another noteworthy point is that we must not think that mobilization is only for war. If we think that, then we are making a fundamental mistake. Mobilization is, in fact, to prevent, not continue war. Mobilization is aimed at preventing anyone from harboring the idea of attacking this revolution and this country.

If we take that to be the main philosophy behind the formation of the mobilization—and that was the point which was emphasized in the imam's first decree—then we would see that just as a country needs a police force and the other organizations and institutions which are counted upon in all countries, so does a revolution, a profound ideological movement which wants to (?maintain) itself and which is continuously threatened by enemies, need a popular, national, and uniform mobilization and preparedness. In this way, any idea about attacking the revolution will be thwarted. Toward that end, it is very important to continue the mobilization.

A point in our favor now is that if this mobilization had not had the experience of war; if it had lessons about war and defense in mosques, schools, factories, and, at best, in maneuvers and target practice areas, it would undoubtedly not have the effectiveness which our war-experienced mobilization has today and which it wil have for years to come. [passage omitted]

The other point is that we can tame the counterrevolution with the power of the mobilization. Perhaps, in its own mind, counterrevolution considers confrontation with regular Armed Forces such as the IRGC, the Army, the Islamic Revolution Committee, and the police or the Gendermerie, acceptable.

However, the counterrevolution's confrontation is with armed popular forces which live in the midst of ithe people and which are the people, forces which have stored up a significant defensive force, is an act of foolishness.

Large foreign powers are constantly creating and taking advantage of chaos in revolutionary countries, the examples of which we have repeatedly witnessed over the past 10 years. However, we can definitely rely on the Mobilization forces, whose existance is necessary for the revolution's survival. [passage omitted]

It is too soon for us to be certain that the war is over. On the face of it, the war appears to be over, and Iraq seems is in no condition to resume the war. However, the Iraqi regime takes orders from others. Our enemies outside the country, who are keeping a close watch on this revolution and nation, may at any time decide to try their luck again. As long as they have an obedient servant like Saddam [Husayn], they might succumb to that temptation. Consequently, we might find ourselves on the battlefield.

Therefore, lest the enemy, who is watching us like a hawk, think that we are getting careless, and before he regroups his forces and is tempted to attack, we must remain on alert for an indefinite period. The Mobilization commanders and personnel should assume that they might be involved in clash in the near future. They must remain on alert. The supply units must also be prepared.

However, we have no reason to make the first move to start the war. We shall remain patient in the peace talks so that, while safeguarding our nation's rights and honoring the achievements of the holy war you dear ones waged, we can achieve the everlasting peace which we seek and the revolution's needs in order to start rebuilding itself and to get ready to carry out its duties. We will carry on. You, too, must remain ready.

However, at the same time, you and the Guards Corps must make plans to take part and assist in the country's reconstruction and development, whereever your immediate presence is required. [passage omitted]

Another point, which I stress, is that our Armed Forces need honest men. Who better than you Mobilization Forces, who have combat experience, who voluntarily took part in the war and were prepared to sacrifice your lives without being asked, or being forced to by the law.

Therefore, you, who have had military training, should join the Guards Corps and the other Armed Forces; but give priority to the Guards Corps.

The Guards Corps needs honest men, and you need the opportunity for military activities. [passage omitted] Now that the war is over, you dear ones should not think that the revolution no longer needs you, that you no longer have a function. Do not think that. This is a period of preparedness. Nothing new has happened. We just have a tenuous ceasefire. Until plans are made and we are ready to do other work, you must involve yourselves in these matters; make plans and proposals.

In any case, this revolution belongs to you, and you belong to this revolution. No one has more right to this revolution than you. [passage omitted] We pray for good health for the imam of the ummah and our great leader. Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

Naval Exercise To Begin Near Bushehr 28 Nov

LD2711141288 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Bushehr, Nov. 27, IRNA—Naval units stationed near here are to launch exercises code-named "Joshan-1" from noon Monday, a Navy commander said today.

Rear Admiral Shafiqi, the commander of the 2nd Maritime Zone said the aim of the maneuvers is to boost the combat readiness of the naval personnel.

He said since the naval units under his command had been engaged in the Iraqi-imposed war, the maneuvers would be a good opportunity for them to carry out coordinated exercises.

The name chosen for the exercise is to commemorate the brave crew members of the frigate Joshan, which was the first vessel to sink an Iraqi warship and the first to exchange fire with American naval units in the Persian Gulf.

Pakistan

President To Name Prime Minister 1 Dec

BK2711162288 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] The president has decided that he will announce the appointment of the prime minister in an address to the nation on the evening of 1 December 1988. The new prime minister will take oath of office in a formal ceremony the following day.

The announcement by the president will be made after membership of the National Assembly has been completed with election to seats reserved for women, and members have taken the oath of office but before the election of the speaker and deputy speaker.

This was disclosed by a spokesman of the federal government in a statement issued in Islamabad a short while ago. The spokesman said the president has taken this decision after extensive consultations with various leaders of political parties and groups represented in the National Assembly and after examining the relevant constitutional provisions.

The spokesman also disclosed other details relating to the formation of national and provincial assemblies following the general elections held on 16 and 19 November 1988.

The National Assembly will now meet on 30 November at 0900 in the Parliament House, Islamabad, for the purpose of election to seats reserved for women as per schedule announced by the Election Commission of Pakistan earlier today.

The provincial assemblies of Punjab, Sind, Baluchistan, and NWFP will also meet on 30 November at 0900 in their respective provincial assembly buildings for election of seats reserved for women in the provincial assemblies as per Election Commission schedule.

Election of the office of speaker and deputy speaker in all the provincial assemblies will take place on 2 December and special sessions of these assemblies will be convened the same day to ascertain the chief ministers who are to form governments in all the provinces.

Statement on Constitutional Transfer of Power

BK2511171588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] A federal government spokesman in a statement today has clarified a controversy which in recent days has figured in the press. The controversy is about whether the National Assembly can be summoned in the absence of a prime minister or whether a person can be appointed prime minister without taking an oath as a member of the National Assembly.

The statement says that the National Assembly was dissolved on 29 May of this year by former President [Ziaul Haq] as a result of which the Federal Cabinet also stood dissolved. Ever since, the country's administration has been run by a caretaker cabinet, but nobody was appointed prime minister.

Under Article 5, Section 48 of the Constitution, the president is obliged to appoint a caretaker cabinet in case the National Assembly is dissolved. After the death of Ziaul Haq, the caretaker cabinet he appointed continued. The president promulgated several laws for preparations of the general elections, and took other measures.

All these measures were taken in the absence of a prime minister. Haji Mohammad Saifullah Khan challenged the validity of these measures and actions in the Supreme Court in a petition which clearly alleged that the president cannot take any such step without the prime minister's advice. The Supreme Court rejected this petition.

In light of these facts it is not appropriate to raise this issue now. What can be said is that there is a clear difference between a normal cabinet and a caretaker cabinet. In the normal cabinet the prime minister represents the majority in the National Assembly.

He acts on the mandate given by the nation and can only be dismissed by the National Assembly. It is for this reason that the advice of the prime minister may be necessary and binding. On the other hand, a caretaker cabinet includes those persons who are nominated by the president, whether they are elected representatives or not.

These persons are not always from the National Assembly and they can be dismissed at will by the president. It will lead to ominous results if the advice of a caretaker prime minister was binding on the appointing or dismissing authority, the president.

According to the statement, Section 2 of Article 91 provides that the president shall, at his discretion, appoint from among the members of the National Assembly a prime minister who in his opinion is most likely to gain the confidence of the majority of members. It is clear that only a National Assembly member can be appointed as prime minister.

The statement says that the question is whether a member can become a National Assembly member without taking an oath. The statement adds that Article 65 of the Constitution lays down that a person elected cannot sit or vote in the Assembly unless he has taken an oath before the house in the prescribed form.

Thus, prior to taking an oath, the person elected has no right to participate in the proceedings of the National Assembly. He can neither sit and vote in the Assembly, nor can he be described as a member. The article describes such persons who have not taken the oath as elected persons.

Under other parts of the Constitution only those who have taken the oath are described as members of the National Assembly. The Constitution, therefore, draws distinction between an elected person and a member. As a result, a person elected cannot be appointed prime minister unless he has taken an oath as a member before the National Assembly according to prescribed form.

The power to nominate a prime minister is vested in the president only until March 1990. Thereafter the original provisions of the 1973 Constitution will stand revived. Even under those provisions a prime minister will be elected only after the Assembly meets, which means that under the relevent articles a person cannot be appointed prime minister unless he has taken the oath as a member of the National Assembly.

The statement reiterates that the president of Pakistan is committed to following the constitutional path and transferring power within a matter of days, as soon as

legal and other formalities are completed. The statement adds that there will not be a delay in the transfer of power for even a minute more than necessary.

It is the constitutional responsibility of the president to appoint as prime minister a member of the National Assembly, who in his opinion is likely to command the confidence of the majority of the National Assembly. The person thus appointed will have to seek a vote of confidence within 60 days.

The statement says that the president has already started the process by inviting leaders of groups and parties in the National Assembly to hold consultations for that purpose.

Bhutto Rejects Coalition Government Demand

BK2711155888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] A message just received says the cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party, Ms Benazir Bhutto, today rejected the demand for a coalition government at the center.

Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad, she said her party has the legal and constitutional right to form the government. The present political situation does not demand a coalition government.

Religious Party Faction Defects From IJI

BK2611034188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1947 GMT 25 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 25 (AFP)—A faction of the religious Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam (JUI) led by Abdullah Darkhwasti has decided to leave the Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) and merge with another JUI faction, party sources said Friday.

A party spokesman said the group has decided to merge with a JUI faction led by Fazlur Rahman so that it can be neutral in the new National Assembly. The Darkhwasti faction, which contested the November 16 general elections on the IJI ticket, won four seats which the Conservative Alliance led by Nawaz Sharif, Punjab's caretaker chief minister, had counted in its total of 55.

The Rahman faction won seven seats. The IJI's main rival, Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), won 94 seats, the largest block of any party.

The spokesman said Mr. Rahman would be the secretary general while Mr. Darkhwasti would be the president of the united JUI. Mr. Rahman had announced that his party would join neither the PPP nor the IJI in any coalition government.

The party sources said the new JUI, with its unified strength of 11 members, would sit as an independent opposition party. The decision was seen as a setback to the IJI's efforts to form a government with the support of like-minded parties and independents, observers said.

Meanwhile, the IJI, which claimed it had acquired an absolute majority with backing by 137 members in the 240-strong Punjab Assembly, was trying to convene a provincial assembly session to form a government in the largest province before Ms. Bhutto's likely appointment as prime minister.

Informed sources said the IJI leader was approaching the Punjab governor, who they said is empowered to convene the provincial assembly session ahead of the December 7 sitting of the National Assembly.

President 'Genuinely Wants' Power Transfer

BK2611150888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan held a meeting with Ghulam Mustafa Khar, the chief of the National People's Party-Khar Group, in Islamabad today. They discussed the political situation prevailing in the country after the general elections.

Later, talking to newsmen, Ghulam Mustafa Khar said he has no doubt that the president genuinely wants to transfer power to the majority party in the National Assembly as soon as possible.

He said the president has assured him that he would not allow any obstacle to come in the way of peaceful transfer of power. Mustafa Khar said he does not want the role of the majority party to be minimized, but it is in the interest of everybody to bring about an atmosphere of conciliation instead of the prevailing confrontation and polarization.

He said he is a firm believer in full democracy and will work for the complete restoration of democracy in the country.

3 Christian Parliament Members Join Bhutto Party

BK2711123088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1225 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 27 (AFP)—Three newly-elected Christian members of the National Assembly Sunday announced their decision to join the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of Benazir Bhutto, who promised to resolve the minority's problems.

The official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN said the three, elected on independent tickets for the minority seats, announced their decision after a meeting with Ms Bhutto in Islamabad.

MPs Catholic Priest Rufin Julius, retired Lieutenant Colonel W. Herbert and George Clement said they joined the PPP "in the larger interest of the country and the Christian community," APP said.

The PPP emerged as the largest single group with 94 seats out of 205 in the November 16 elections but failed to achieve an absolute majority and has been engaged in mustering support from independents to form the next government.

More on President's Meeting With Party Leaders

BK2611155488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Excerpts] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan held separate meetings with Ghulam Mustafa Khar, the president of National People's Party-Khar Group, and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chief of Pakistan Democratic Party [PDP], in Islamabad today.

They held discussions on the present political situation in the country after the general elections and matters relating to the transfer of power and the formation of the new government. [passage omitted]

Addressing a news conference this evening, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, the chief of PDP, said the president is determined to transfer power to the majority party in accordance with the constitutional requirements. He said under the current political situation in the country, it is necessary to work with caution and mutual goodwill to facilitate the peaceful transfer of power and to strengthen the democratic process.

He said all political elements of the country should play their positive role in bringing about an atmosphere of conciliation and should do their best to eliminate the attitude of confrontation. The president deserves all praise for fulfilling the promises he had made to the nation by holding free and impartial general elections under the supervision of the judiciary.

Justice Minister: Woman Can Lead Government

BK2611074388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Nov 88

[Text] Minister for Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Wasim Sajjad has said that the president has started a series of sincere negotiations with the leaders of various political parties for the orderly and peaceful transfer of power.

Talking to newsmen at Multan Airport yesterday evening, he said the president wants to know which leader actually commands majority support in the Parliament, as no political party secured a clear majority in the general elections. The Pakistan People's Party, undoubtedly, has emerged as the single largest party in the house, but it also does not have a clear majority.

The justice minister said the transfer of power to the elected representatives will take place within a few days. He added that under the Constitution, the president can appoint any member of the National Assembly, who enjoys the confidence of the majority, as the leader of the house.

Answering a question about the Constitutional position regarding the appointment of a woman member as the head of the government, the justice minister said a woman member is allowed by the Constitution to become the head of the government.

Replying to another question, Wasim Sajjad said the leaders of the political parties reserve the right to express their opinion about the existing political situation.

Answering another question as to how long the present caretaker governments will continue to work, the justice minister said they will continue to work until the formation of representative governments at the national and the provincial levels.

About the review of the cases of political prisoners of the martial law regime, Wasim Sajjad said that in its recent judgment in the case of Malik Ghulam Mustufa Khar, the Supreme Court clearly stated that the high courts are empowered to review such cases.

President Agrees To Free Political Prisoners

BK2711095488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0936 GMT 27 Nov 88

[Text] Islamabad, Nov 27 (AFP)—Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishak Khan has agreed to release all political prisoners during the next few days, a newspaper reported here Sunday.

The leader of a faction of the National People's Party, Ghulam Mustafa Khar, told reporters that the president had promised to announce the release of the prisoners before the formation of a new government in the first week of December, the DAWN newspaper said.

Mr. Khar, who won a seat in the National Assembly in general elections November 16, said the president's decision had come during a meeting here Saturday, the newspaper reported.

Amnesty International estimates there are about 100 political prisoners here, imprisoned by military courts between 1977 and 1985 under martial law. Local political parties put the figure at over 300.

Sri Lanka

EPRLF Wins Absolute Majority in Election

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[Text] In Sri Lanka, EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] has won absolute majority on its own in the 71-member Northeastern Provincial Council.

After counting of individual performance votes in Colombo, it has been disclosed that the party has won 36 seats in all. It got 24 seats from the north and 12 from the east. Two prominent leaders from the east—Mr Kripakaran and Mr (Nisarazad)—were among those who won the poll.

The ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] won 2 seats in Batticaloa taking its tally to 15. It also got one seat in Amparai District. In all, it won 3 seats from the east and 12 from the north.

Their Batticaloa leader, Mr Gopinath Raja, popularly known as Kalidas, and another leader Mr Rudra were among those elected. The Sri Lanka Muslim Congress has 17 seats.

By virtue of being the single largest party in the council EPRLF will get two more bonus seats, taking its tally to 38. AIR Batticaloa correspondent understands that the new ministry is likely to give representation to all parties.

Ministry Appointments Announced

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[Text] The EPRLF leader, Mr Annamalai Varadaraja Perumal, will be the first chief minister of the newly formed Northeast Province in Sri Lanka.

The party's Batticaloa leader, Mr Kirupakaran, will be the finance minister. Disclosing this in a press release in Batticaloa today, the secretary general of the EPRLF, Mr Padmanabha, said the party's central committee has also decided to give representation to Muslims, Sinhalese and the ENDLF in the 5-member ministry.

The Sri Lanka Mahajana Party Central Committee member, Mr Dayananda Jayatillake, who also contested the provincial council poll with the EPRLF symbol in Trincomalee District will represent the Sinhalese in the ministry. The other two ministers to represent Muslims and ENDLF are yet to be announced.

Mr Padmanabha, in a statement, said the Central Committee of his party took this decision in order to bring unity and peace among all communities and to restore the economy of the people of the province, which was ravaged due to the ethnic problem in the region. He also appealed to the people to give their full cooperation to the new government in carrying out this task.

The new ministry will assume office after the official announcement from Colombo.

Curfew Imposed in Colombo After JVP Bus Ambush

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[Text] Colombo, Nov 26 (AFP)—The government clamped a 31-hour curfew on Colombo suburbs after suspected Sinhalese rebels ambushed a state-owned bus near here Saturday, killing three soldiers and a woman passenger. A government statement said the curfew effective Saturday evening in the eight immediate suburbs of Colombo would be lifted by morning Monday.

The announcement came hours after the ambush by suspected members of the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) at Pannipitiya. Gunmen opened fire at two soldiers escorting the bus, killing them instantly.

A third soldier who came to the rescue of his colleagues was also shot dead and a woman passenger was caught in the crossfire, police said. The attackers escaped with three automatic assault rifles from the soldiers.

An official said the long curfew was clamped as a precautionary measure due to tension following the shoot-out at Pannipitiya. A five-hour night curfew is in force elsewhere in the country.

Government buses have been given military protection following JVP threats against drivers to stay away from work. Scores of drivers have been shot dead by gunmen while they were operating their vehicles.

The JVP has staged several successful strikes in a bid to force the 11-year-old government of President Junius Jayewardene to resign. The group is notably opposed to a July 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka peace pact under which New Delhi has some 50,000 troops in the island's Tamil-populated north and east in a bid to to end a bloody Tamil separatist campaign.

The JVP, which led a bloody insurrection 17 years ago which was put down with the loss of at least 10,000 lives, has been accused of killing over 500 ruling party men, security personnel and leftists backing the peace plan.